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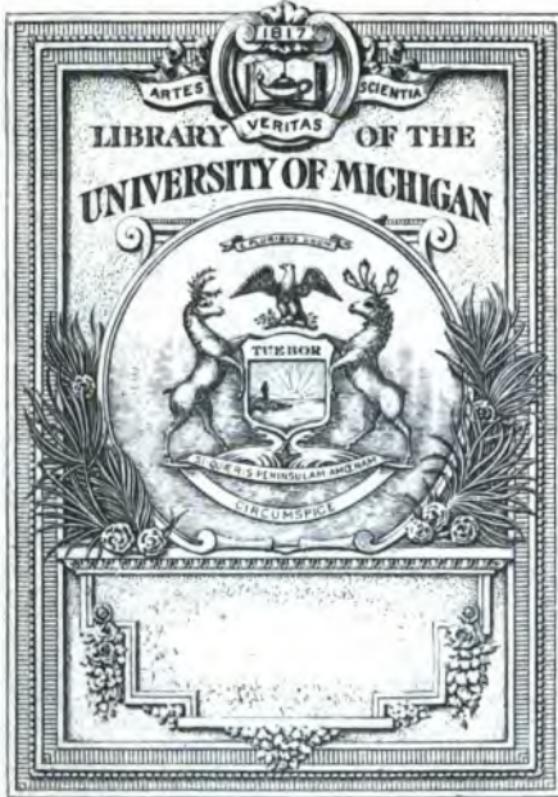
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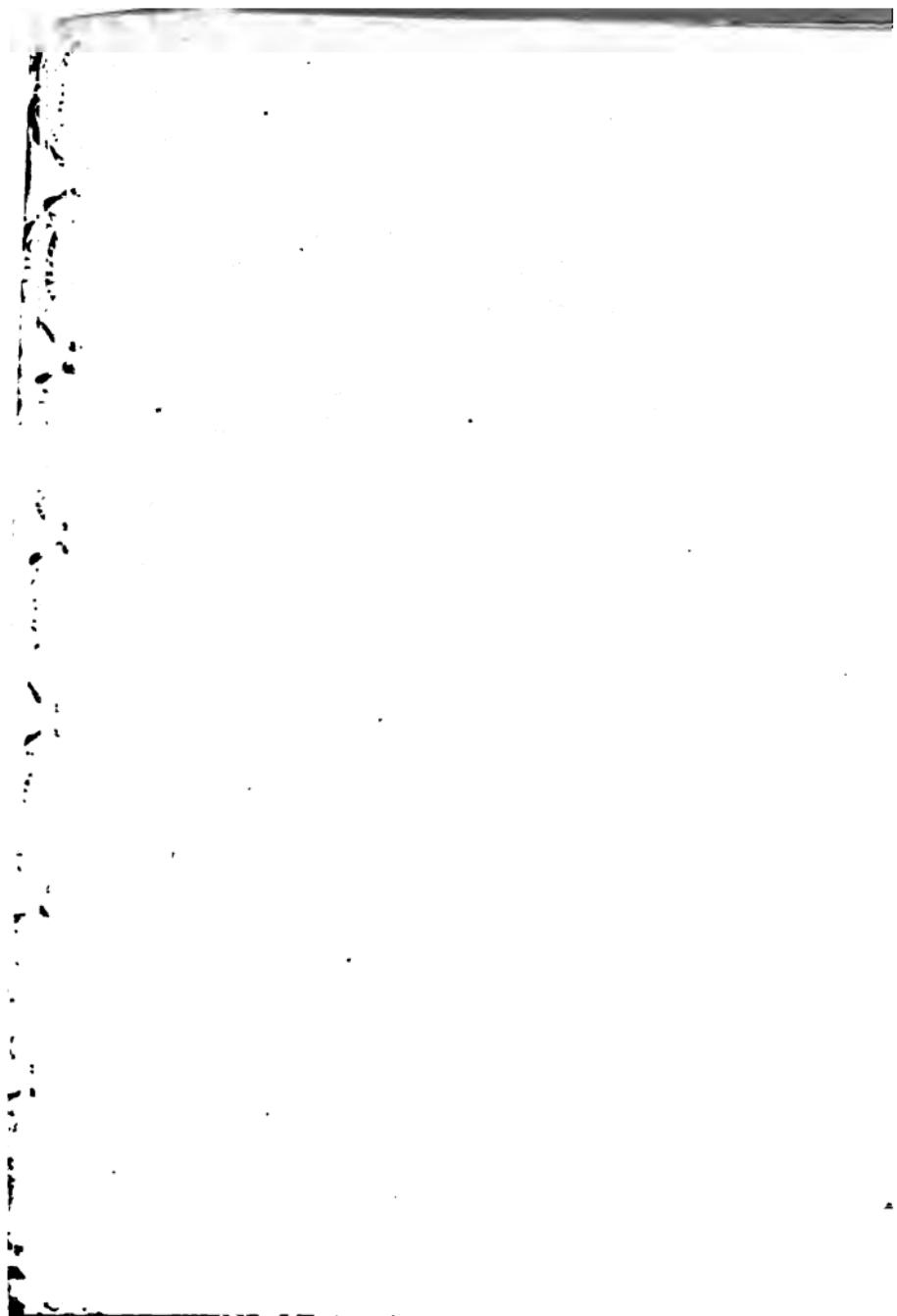
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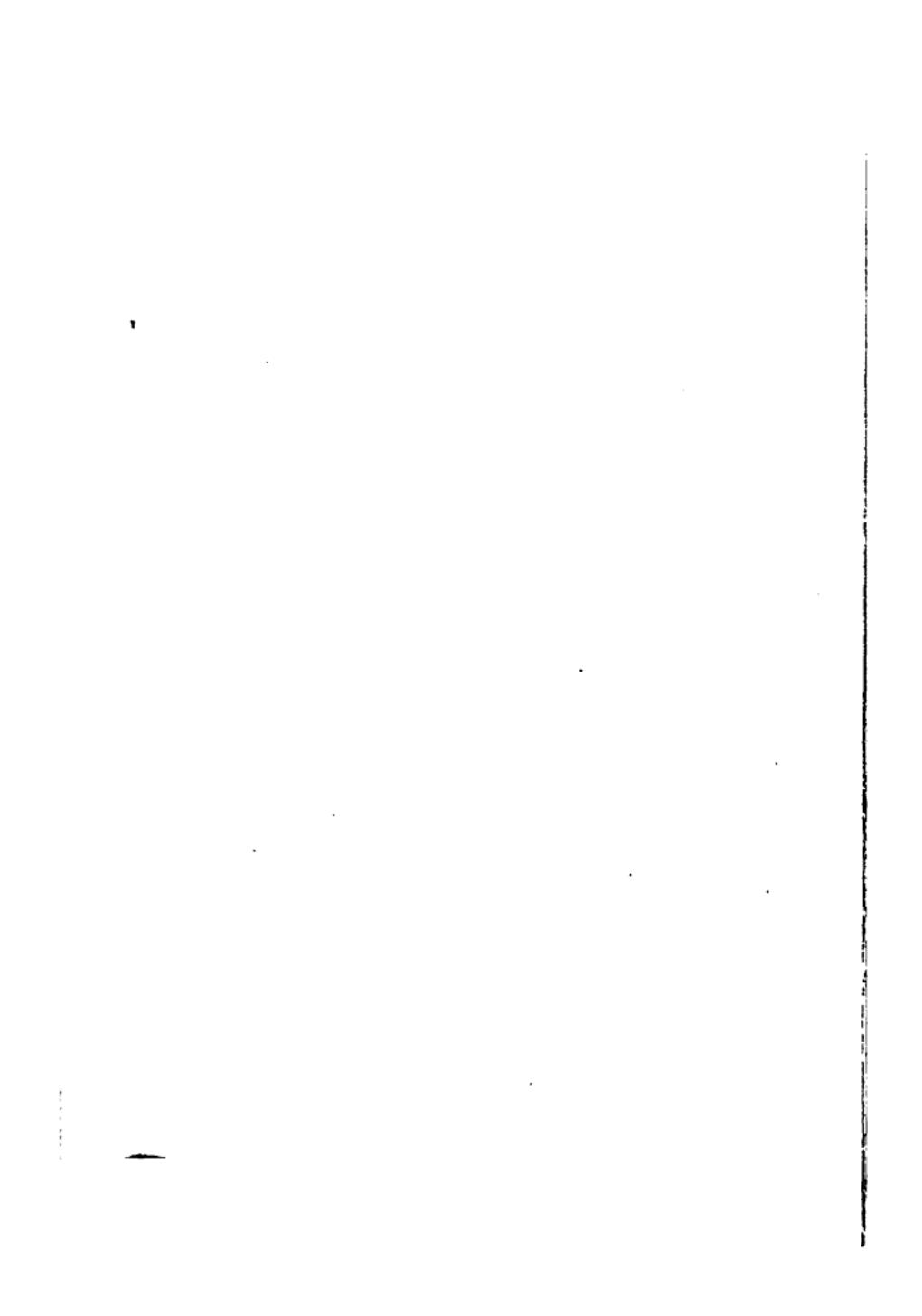
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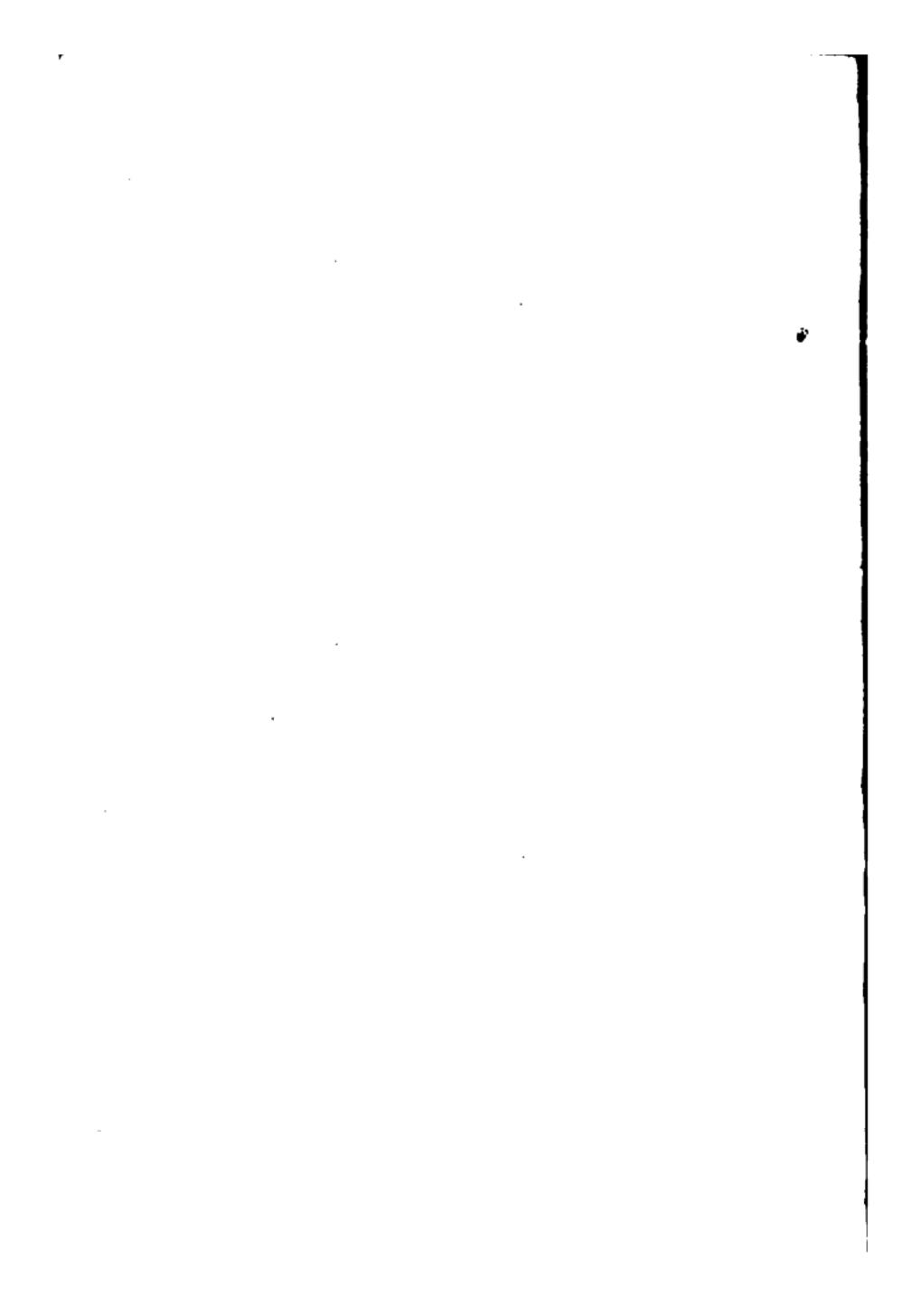
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NOTE BY THE AUTHOR

TO THE EDITION OF 1857.

IN these volumes, for the first time, a complete collection of my poetical writings has been made. While it is satisfactory to know that these scattered children of my brain have found a home, I cannot but regret that I have been unable, by reason of illness, to give that attention to their revision and arrangement, which respect for the opinions of others and my own afterthought and experience demand.

That there are pieces in this collection which I would "willingly let die," I am free to confess. But it is now too late to disown them, and I must submit to the inevitable penalty of poetical as well as other sins. There are others, intimately connected with the author's life and times, which owe their tenacity of vitality to the circumstances under which they were written, and the events by which they were suggested.

The long poem of Mogg Megone was, in a great measure, composed in early life; and it is scarcely necessary to say that its subject is not such as the writer would have chosen at any subsequent period.

J. G. W.

AMESBURY, 18th 3d mo., 1857.

P R O E M .

I LOVE the old melodious lays
Which softly melt the ages through,
The songs of Spenser's golden days,
Arcadian Sidney's silvery phrase,
Sprinkling our noon of time with freshest morning dew.

Yet, vainly in my quiet hours
To breathe their marvellous notes I try;
I feel them, as the leaves and flowers
In silence feel the dewy showers,
And drink with glad still lips the blessing of the sky.

The rigor of a frozen clime,
The harshness of an untaught ear,
The jarring words of one whose rhyme
Beat often Labor's hurried time,
Or Duty's rugged march through storm and strife, are here.

Of mystic beauty, dreamy grace,
No rounded art the lack supplies;
Unskilled the subtle lines to trace,
Or softer shades of Nature's face,
I view her common forms with unanointed eyes.

Nor mine the seer-like power to show
The secrets of the heart and mind;
To drop the plummet-line below
Our common world of joy and woe,
A more intense despair or brighter hope to find.

Yet here at least an earnest sense
Of human right and weal is shown;
A hate of tyranny intense,
And hearty in its vehemence,
As if my brother's pain and sorrow were my own.

O Freedom! if to me belong
Nor mighty Milton's gift divine,
Nor Marvell's wit and graceful song,
Still with a love as deep and strong
As theirs, I lay, like them, my best gifts on thy shrine!

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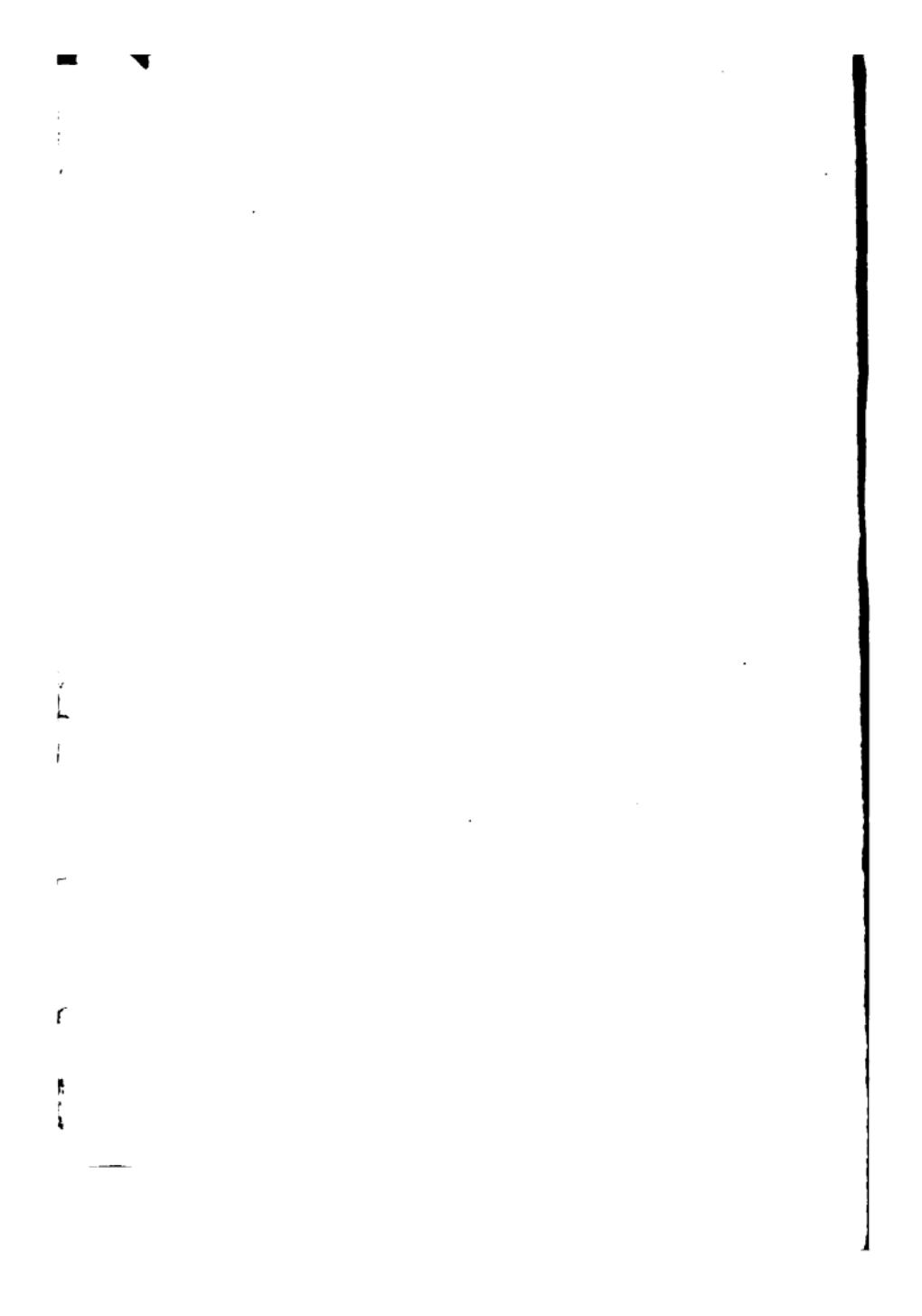
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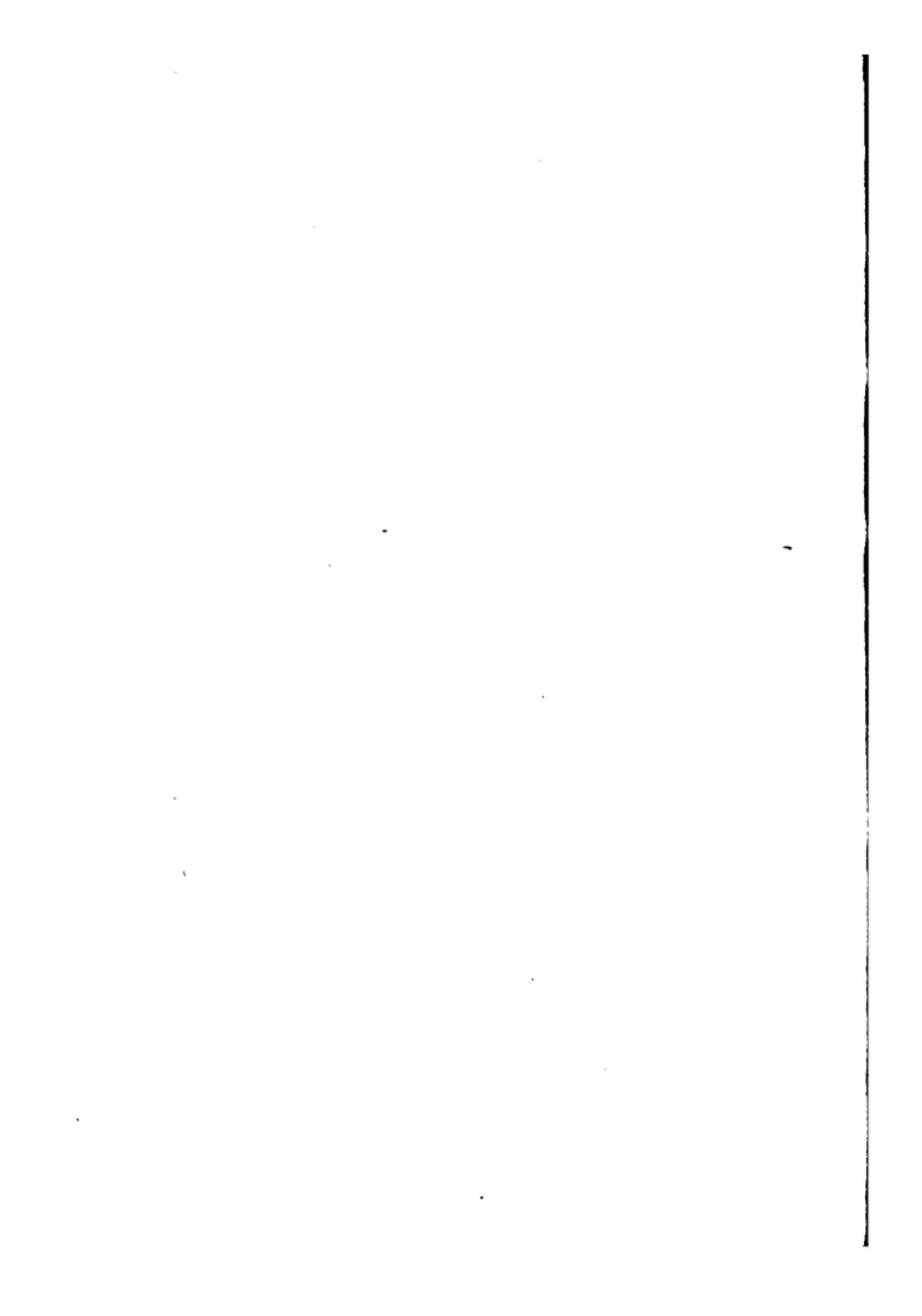
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MOGG MEGONE.

1835.



MOGG MEGONE.

The story of MOGG MEGONE has been considered by the author only as a framework for sketches of the scenery of New England, and of its early inhabitants. In portraying the Indian character, he has followed, as closely as his story would admit, the rough but natural delineations of Church, Mayhew, Charlevoix, and Roger Williams; and in so doing he has necessarily discarded much of the romance which poets and novelists have thrown around the ill-fated red man¹.

PART I.

Who stands on that cliff, like a figure
of stone,
Unmoving and tall in the light of the
sky,
Where the spray of the cataract spar-
kles on high,
Lonely and sternly, save Mogg Me-
gone?¹
Close to the verge of the rock is he,
While beneath him the Saco its work
is doing,
Hurrying down to its grave, the sea,
And slow through the rock its path-
way hewing!
Far down, through the mist of the fall-
ing river,
Which rises up like an incense ever,
The splintered points of the crags are
seen,
With water howling and vexed between,
While the scooping whirl of the pool be-
neath
Seems an open throat, with its granite
teeth!

But Mogg Megone never trembled yet
Wherever his eye or his foot was set.
He is watchful: each form in the moon-
light diin,
Of rock or of tree, is seen of him:
He listens; each sound from afar is
caught,
The faintest shiver of leaf and limb:
But he sees not the waters, which foam
and fret.

Whose moonlit spray has his moccasin
wet,—
And the roar of their rushing, he hears
it not.

The moonlight, through the open bough
Of the gnarl'd beech, whose naked root
Coils like a serpent at his foot,
Falls, checkered, on the Indian's brow.
His head is bare, save only where
Waves in the wind one lock of hair,
Reserved for him, whoe'er he be,
More mighty than Megone in strife,
When, breast to breast and knee to
knee,
Above the fallen warrior's life
Gleams, quick and keen, the scalping-
knife.

Megone hath his knife and hatchet and
gun,
And his gaudy and tasselled blanket on:
His knife hath a handle with gold inlaid,
And magic words on its polished blade,—
'T was the gift of Castine² to Mogg Me-
gone.
For a scalp or twain from the Yengees
torn:
His gun was the gift of the Tarrantine,
And Modocawando's wives had strung
The brass and the beads, which tinkle
and shine
On the polished breech, and broad bright
line
Of beaded wampum around it hung.

MOGG MEGONE.

What seeks Megone? His foes are near, —
 Grey Jocelyn's³ eye is never sleeping,
 And the garrison lights are burning clear,
 Where Phillips'⁴ men their watch are keeping.
 Let him hie him away through the dank river fog,
 Never rustling the boughs nor displacing the rocks,
 For the eyes and the ears which are watching for Mogg,
 Are keener than those of the wolf or the fox.

He starts, — there 's a rustle among the leaves:
 Another, — the click of his gun is heard!
 A footstep — is it the step of Cleaves,
 With Indian blood on his English sword?
 Steals Harmon⁵ down from the sands of York,
 With hand of iron and foot of cork?
 Has Scammon, versed in Indian wile,
 For vengeance left his vine-hung isle?
 Hark! at that whistle, soft and low,
 How lights the eye of Mogg Megone!
 A smile gleams o'er his dusky brow, —
 "Boonwelcome, Johnny Bonython!"

Out steps, with cautious foot and slow,
 And quick, keen glances to and fro,
 The hunted outlaw, Bonython!⁶
 A low, lean, swarthy man is he,
 With blanket-garb and busked knee,
 And naught of English fashion on;
 For he hates the race from whence he sprung,
 And he couches his words in the Indian tongue.

"Hush, — let the Sachem's voice be weak;
 The water-rat shall hear him speak, —
 The owl shall whoop in the white man's ear,
 That Mogg Megone, with his scalps, is here!"
 He pauses, — dark, over cheek and brow,
 A flush, as of shame, is stealing now:

"Sachem!" he says, "let me have the land,
 Which stretches away upon either hand,
 As far about as my feet can stray
 In the half of a gentle summer's day,
 From the leaping brook⁸ to the Saco river, —

And the fair-haired girl, thou hast sought of me,
 Shall sit in the Sachem's wigwam, and be
 The wife of Mogg Megone forever."

There 's a sudden light in the Indian's glance,

A moment's trace of powerful feeling,
 Of love or triumph, or both perchance,
 Over his proud, calm features stealing.

"The words of my father are very good;
 He shall have the land, and water, and wood;
 And he who harms the Sagamore John,
 Shall feel the knife of Mogg Megone;
 But the fawn of the Yengees shall sleep on my breast,
 And the bird of the clearing shall sing in my nest."

"But, father!" — and the Indian's hand
 Falls gently on the white man's arm,
 And with a smile as shrewdly bland
 As the deep voice is slow and calm, —
 "Where is my father's singing-bird, —
 The sunny eye, and sunset hair?
 I know I have my father's word,
 And that his word is good and fair;
 But will my father tell me where
 Megone shall go and look for his bride? —
 For he sees her not by her father's side."

The dark, stern eye of Bonython
 Flashes over the features of Mogg Megone,
 In one of those glances which search within;
 But the stolid calm of the Indian alone
 Remains where the trace of emotion has been.
 "Does the Sachem doubt? Let him go with me,
 And the eyes of the Sachem his bride shall see."

Cautious and slow, with pauses oft,
And watchful eyes and whispers soft,
The twain are stealing through the wood,
Leaving the downward-rushing flood,
Whose deep and solemn roar behind
Grows fainter on the evening wind.

Hark! — is that the angry howl
Of the wolf, the hills among? —
Or the hooting of the owl,
On his leafy cradle swung? —
Quickly glancing, to and fro,
Listening to each sound they go
Round the columns of the pine,
Indistinct, in shadow, seeming
Like some old and pillared shrine;
With the soft and white moonshine,
Round the foliage-traceried shed
Of each column's branching head,
For its lamps of worship gleaming!
And the sounds awakened there,
In the pine-leaves fine and small,
Soft and sweetly musical,
By the fingers of the air,
For the anthem's dying fall
Lingering round some temple's wall!
Niche and cornice round and round
Wailing like the ghost of sound!
Is not Nature's worship thus,
Ceaseless ever, going on?
Hath it not a voice for us
In the thunder, or the tone
Of the leaf-harp faint and small,
Speaking to the unsealed ear
Words of blended love and fear,
Of the mighty Soul of all?

Naught had the twain of thoughts like
these
As they wound along through the
crowded trees,
Where never had rung the axeman's
stroke
On the gnarled trunk of the rough-
barked oak; —
Climbing the dead tree's mossy log,
Breaking the mesh of the bramble
fine,
Turning aside the wild grape vine,
And lightly crossing the quaking bog
Whose surface shakes at the leap of
the frog,
And out of whose pools the ghostly fog
Creeps into the chill moonshine!

Yet, even that Indian's ear had heard
The preaching of the Holy Word:
Sancheekantacket's isle of sand
Was once his father's hunting land,
Where zealous Hiacoomes⁹ stood, —
The wild apostle of the wood,
Shook from his soul the fear of harm,
And trampled on the Powwaw's charm;
Until the wizard's curses hung
Suspended on his palsying tongue,
And the fierce warrior, grim and tall,
Trembled before the forest Paul!

A cottage hidden in the wood, —
Red through its seams a light is
glowing,
On rock and bough and tree-trunk rude,
A narrow lustre throwing.
“Who's there?” a clear, firm voice
demands;
“Hold, Ruth, — 'tis I, the Sagamore!”
Quick, at the summons, hasty hands
Unclose the bolted door;
And on the outlaw's daughter shine
The flashes of the kindled pine.

Tall and erect the maiden stands,
Like some young priestess of the
wood,
The freeborn child of Solitude,
And bearing still the wild and rude,
Yet noble trace of Nature's hands.
Her dark brown cheek has caught its
stain
More from the sunshine than the rain;
Yet, where her long fair hair is parting,
A pure white brow into light is start-
ing;
And, where the folds of her blanket
sever,
Are a neck and bosom as white as ever
The foam-wreaths rise on the leaping
river.
But in the convulsive quiver and grip
Of the muscles around her bloodless
lip,
There is something painful and sad
to see;
And her eye has a glance more sternly
wild
Than even that of a forest child
In its fearless and untamed freedom
should be.

Yet, seldom in hall or court are seen
So queenly a form and so noble a mien,
As freely and smiling she welcomes
them there.—

Her outlawed sire and Mogg Megone :
“ Pray, father, how does thy hunting
fare ? ”

And, Sachem, say, — does Scamman
wear,
In spite of thy promise, a scalp of his
own ? ”

Hurried and light is the maiden’s tone ;
But a fearful meaning lurks within
Her glance, as it questions the eye of
Megone, —

An awful meaning of guilt and sin ! —
The Indian hath opened his blanket,
and there

Hangs a human scalp by its long damp
hair !

With hand upraised, with quick-drawn
breath,

She meets that ghastly sign of death.
In one long, glassy, spectral stare
The enlarging eye is fastened there,
As if that mesh of pale brown hair

Had power to change at sight alone,
Even as the fearful locks which wound
Medusa’s fatal forehead round,
The gazer into stone.

With such a look Herodias read
The features of the bleeding head,
So looked the mad Moor on his dead,
Or the young Cenci as she stood,
O’er-dabbled with a father’s blood !

Look ! — feeling melts that frozen
glance,
It moves that marble countenance,
As if at once within her strove
Pity with shame, and hate with love.
The Past recalls its joy and pain,
Old memories rise before her brain, —
The lips which love’s embraces met,
The hand her tears of parting wet,
The voice whose pleading tones be-
guiled

The pleased ear of the forest-child, —
And tears she may no more repress
Reveal her lingering tenderness.

O, woman wronged, can cherish hate
More deep and dark than manhood
may ;

But when the mockery of Fate

Hath left Revenge its chosen way,
And the fell curse, which years have
nursed,
Full on the spoiler’s head hath burst, —
When all her wrong, and shame, and
pain,

Burns fiercely on his heart and brain, —
Still lingers something of the spell
Which bound her to the traitor’s be-
sor, —

Still, midst the vengeful fires of hell,
Some flowers of old affection blossom.

John Bonython’s eyebrows together are
drawn

With a fierce expression of wrath and
scorn, —

He hoarsely whispers, “ Ruth, beware !
Is this the time to be playing the
fool, —

Crying over a paltry lock of hair,
Like a love-sick girl at school ? —
Curse on it ! — an Indian can see and
hear :

Away, — and prepare our evening
cheer ! ”

How keenly the Indian is watching now
Her tearful eye and her varying brow, —
With a serpent eye, which kindles
and burns,

Like a fiery star in the upper air :
On sire and daughter his fierce glance
turns : —

“ Has my old white father a scalp to
spare ? ”

For his young one loves the pale
brown hair

Of the scalp of an English dog, far more
Than Mogg Megone, or his wigwam
floor :

Go, — Mogg is wise : he will keep his
land, —

And Sagamore John, when he feels
with his hand,
Shall miss his scalp where it grew
before.”

The moment’s gust of grief is gone, —
The lip is clenched, — the tears are
still, —

God pity thee, Ruth Bonython !
With what a strength of will

Are nature's feelings in thy breast,
As with an iron hand, repressed !
And how, upon that nameless woe,
Quick as the pulse can come and go,
While shakes the unsteadfast knee, and
yet

The bosom heaves,—the eye is wet,—
Has thy dark spirit power to stay
The heart's wild current on its way?

And whence that baleful strength of
guile,

Which over that still working brow
And tearful eye and cheek, can throw
The mockery of a smile?
Warned by her father's blackening
frown,

With one strong effort crushing down
Grief, hate, remorse, she meets again
The savage murderer's sullen gaze,

And scarcely look or tone betrays
How the heart strives beneath its chain.

"Is the Sachem angry,—angry with
Ruth,

Because she cries with an ache in her
tooth,¹⁰

Which would make a Sagamore jump
and cry,

And look about with a woman's eye?
No,—Ruth will sit in the Sachem's
door

And braid the mats for his wigwam floor,
And broil his fish and tender fawn,
And weave his wampum, and grind his
corn,—

For she loves the brave and the wise,
and none

Are braver and wiser than Mogg
Megone!"

The Indian's brow is clear once more :
With grave, calm face, and half-shut
eye,

He sits upon the wigwam floor,
And watches Ruth go by,
Intent upon her household care;

And even and anon, the while,
Or on the maiden, or her fare,
Which smokes in grateful promise there,
Bestows his quiet smile.

Ah, Mogg Megone!—what dreams
are thine,
But those which love's own fancies
dress,—

The sum of Indian happiness!—
A wigwam, where the warm sunshine
Looks in among the groves of pine,—
A stream, where, round thy light canoe,
The trout and salmon dart in view,
And the fair girl, before thee now,
Spreading thy mat with hand of snow,
Or plying, in the dews of morn,
Her hoe amidst thy patch of corn,
Or offering up, at eve, to thee,
Thy birchen dish of hominy!

From the rude board of Bonython,
Venison and succatash have gone,—
For long these dwellers of the wood
Have felt the gnawing want of food.
But untasted of Ruth is the frugal
cheer,—

With head averted, yet ready ear,
She stands by the side of her austere sire,
Feeding, at times, the unequal fire
With the yellow knots of the pitch-pine
tree,

Whose flaring light, as they kindle, falls
On the cottage-roof, and its black log
walls,
And over its inmates three.

From Sagamore Bonython's hunting
flask

The fire-water burns at the lip of Me-
gone :

"Will the Sachem hear what his father
shall ask?

Will he make his mark, that it may
be known,

On the speaking-leaf, that he gives the
land,

From the Sachem's own, to his father's
hand?"

The fire-water shines in the Indian's
eyes,

As he rises, the white man's bidding
to do :

"Wuttamuttata—weekan!¹¹ Mogg is
wise,—

For the water he drinks is strong
and new,—

Mogg's heart is great!—will he shut
his hand,

When his father asks for a little land?"—
With unsteady fingers, the Indian has
drawn

On the parchment the shape of a
hunter's bow,

"Boon water,—boon water,—Sagamore John!

Wuttamuttata,—weekan! our hearts will grow!"

He drinks yet deeper,—he mutters low,—

He reels on his bear-skin to and fro,—His head falls down on his naked breast,—

Hestruggles, and sinks to a drunken rest.

"Humph—drunk as a beast!"—and Bonython's brow Is darker than ever with evil thought—"The fool has signed his warrant; but how

And when shall the deed be wrought? Speak, Ruth! why, what the devil is there,

To fix thy gaze in that empty air?—Speak, Ruth! by my soul, if I thought that tear,

Which shames thyself and our purpose here,

Were shed for that cursed and pale-faced dog,

Whose green scalp hangs from the belt of Mogg,

And whose beastly soul is in Satan's keeping,—

This—this!"—he dashes his hand upon

The rattling stock of his loaded gun,— "Should send thee with him to do thy weeping!"

"Father!"—the eye of Bonython Sinks at that low, sepulchral tone,

Hollow and deep, as it were spoken By the unmoving tongue of death,—

Or from some statue's lips had broken,—

A sound without a breath!

"Father!—my life I value less Than yonder fool his gaudy dress;

And how it ends it matters not, By heart-break or by rifle-shot;

But spare awhile the scoff and threat,— Our business is not finished yet."

"True, true, my girl,—I only meant To draw up again the bow unbent. Harm thee, my Ruth! I only sought To frighten off thy gloomy thought;—

Come,—let's be friends!" He seeks to clasp

His daughter's cold, damp hand in his. Ruth startles from her father's grasp, As if each nerve and muscle felt, Instinctively, the touch of guilt, Through all their subtle sympathies.

He points her to the sleeping Mogg: "What shall be done with yonder dog? Scamman is dead, and revenge is thine,—

The deed is signed and the land is mine; And this drunken fool is of use no more,

Save as thy hopeful bridegroom, and sooth, 'T were Christian mercy to finish him, Ruth,

Now, while he lies like a beast on our floor,—

If not for thine, at least for his sake, Rather than let the poor dog awake To drain my flask, and claim as his bride Such a forest devil to run by his side,-- Such a Wetuomanit¹² as thou wouldst make!"

He laughs at his jest. Hush—what is there?—

The sleeping Indian is striving to rise, With his knife in his hand, and glaring eyes!—

"Wagh!—Mogg will have the pale-face's hair,

For his knife is sharp, and his fingers can help

The hair to pull and the skin to peel,— Let him cry like a woman and twist like an eel,

The great Captain Scamman must lose his scalp!

And Ruth, when she sees it, shall dance with Mogg."

His eyes are fixed,—but his lips draw in,—

With a low, hoarse chuckle, and fiendish grin,—

And he sinks again, like a senseless log.

Ruth does not speak,—she does not stir;

But she gazes down on the murderer,

Whose broken and dreamful slumbers
tell
Too much for her ear of that deed of
hell.
She sees the knife, with its slaughter red,
And the dark fingers clutching the bear-
skin bed !
What thoughts of horror and madness
whirl
Through the burning brain of that fallen
girl !

John Bonython lifts his gun to his eye,
Its muzzle is close to the Indian's
ear, —
But he drops it again. "Some one may
be nigh,
And I would not that even the wolves
should hear."
He draws his knife from its deer-skin
belt, —
Its edge with his fingers is slowly felt ; —
Kneeling down on one knee, by the
Indian's side,
From his throat he opens the blanket
wide :
And twice or thrice he feebly essayes
A trembling hand with the knife to
raise.

"I cannot," — he mutters, — "did he
not save
My life from a cold and wintry grave,
When the storm came down from Agoo-
chook,
And the north-wind howled, and the
tree-tops shook, —
And I strove, in the drifts of the rush-
ing snow,
Till my knees grew weak and I could
not go,
And I felt the cold to my vitals creep,
And my heart's blood stiffen, and pulses
sleep !
I cannot strike him — Ruth Bonython !
In the Devil's name, tell me — what's
to be done ?"

O, when the soul, once pure and high,
Is stricken down from Virtue's sky,
As, with the downcast star of morn,
Some gems of light are with it drawn, —
And, through its night of darkness, play
Some tokens of its primal day, —
Some lofty feelings linger still, —
The strength to dare, the nerve to
meet

Whatever threatens with defeat
Its all-indomitable will ! —
But lacks the mean of mind and heart,
Though eager for the gains of crime,
Oft, at his chosen place and time,
The strength to bear his evil part ;
And, shielded by his very Vice,
Escapes from Crime by Cowardice.

Ruth starts erect, — with bloodshot
eye,
And lips drawn tight across her teeth,
Showing their locked embrace beneath,
In the red fire-light : — "Mogg must
die !
Give me the knife !" — The outlaw
turns,
Shuddering in heart and limb, away, —
But, fitfully there, the hearth-fire burns,
And he sees on the wall strange shad-
ows play.

A lifted arm, a tremulous blade,
Are dimly pictured in light and shade,
Plunging down in the darkness.
Hark, that cry
Again — and again — he sees it fall, —
That shadowy arm down the lighted
wall !

He hears quick footsteps — a shape
flits by —
The door on its rusted hinges
creaks : —
"Ruth — daughter Ruth !" the outlaw
shrieks.
But no sound comes back, — he is stand-
ing alone
By the mangled corse of Mogg Me-
gone !

PART II.

T is morning over Norridgewock, —
On tree and wigwam, wave and rock.
Bathed in the autumnal sunshine, stirred

At intervals by breeze and bird,
And wearing all the hues which glow
In heaven's own pure and perfect bow,

That glorious picture of the air,
Which summer's slight-robed angel forms
On the dark ground of fading storms,
With pencil dipped in sunbeams
there, —

And, stretching out, on either hand,
O'er all that wide and unshorn land,
Till, weary of its gorgeousness,
The aching and the dazzled eye
kests gladdened, on the calm blue
sky, —

Slumbers the mighty wilderness !
The oak, upon the windy hill,
Its dark green burthen upward
heaves —

The hemlock broods above its rill,
Its cone-like foliage darker still,
Against the birch's graceful stem,
And the rough walnut-bough receives
The sun upon its crowded leaves,
Each colored like a topaz gem ;
And the tall maple wears with them
The coronal which autumn gives,
The brief, bright sign of ruin near,
The hectic of a dying year !

The hermit priest, who lingers now
On the Bald Mountain's shrubless brow,
The gray and thunder-smitten pile
Which marks afar the Desert Isle,¹⁸
While gazing on the scene below,
May half forget the dreams of home,
That nightly with his slumbers
come, —

The tranquil skies of sunny France,
The peasant's harvest song and dance,
The vines around the hillsides wreath-ing

The soft airs midst their clusters breath-ing,
The wings which dipped, the stars
which shone

Within thy bosom, blue Garonne !
And round the Abbey's shadowed wall,
At morning spring and even-fall,

Sweet voices in the still air singing, —
The chant of many a holy hymn, —

The solemn bell of vespers ringing, —
And hallowed torch-light falling dim
On pictured saint and seraphim !
For here beneath him lies unrolled,
Bathed deep in morning's flood of gold,
A vision gorgeous as the dream
Of the beatified may seem,

When, as his Church's legends say,
Borne upward in ecstatic bliss,
The rapt enthusiast soars away
Unto a brighter world than this :
A mortal's glimpse beyond the pale, —
A moment's lifting of the veil !

Far eastward o'er the lovely bay,
Penobscot's clustered wigwams lay :
And gently from that Indian town
The verdant hillside slopes adown,
To where the sparkling waters play
Upon the yellow sands below ;
And shooting round the winding shores
Of narrow capes, and isles which lie
Slumbering to ocean's lullaby, —
With birchen boat and glancing oars,
The red men to their fishing go ;
While from their planting ground is
borne

The treasure of the golden corn,
By laughing girls, whose dark eyes glow
Wild through the locks which o'er them
flow.

The wrinkled squaw, whose toil is done,
Sits on her bear-skin in the sun,
Watching the huskers, with a smile
For each full ear which swells the pile.
And the old chief, who nevermore
May bend the bow or pull the oar,
Smokes gravely in his wigwam door,
Or slowly shapes, with axe of stone,
The arrow-head from flint and bone.

Beneath the westward turning eye
A thousand wooded islands lie, —
Gems of the waters ! — with each hue
Of brightness set in ocean's blue.
Each bears aloft its tuft of trees
Touched by the pencil of the frost,
And, with the motion of each breeze,
A moment seen, — a moment lost, —
Changing and blent, confused and
tossed,

The brighter with the darker crossed,
Their thousand tints of beauty glow
Down in the restless waves below,
And tremble in the sunny skies,
As if, from waving bough to bough,
Flitted the birds of paradise.

There sleep Placentia's group, — and
there
Père Breteaux marks the hour of prayer ;
And there, beneath the sea-worn cliff,

On which the Father's hut is seen,
The Indian stays his rocking skiff,
And peers the hemlock-boughs between,
Half trembling, as he seeks to look
Upon the Jesuit's Cross and Book.¹⁴
There, gloomily against the sky
The Dark Isles rear their summits high;
And Desert Rock, abrupt and bare,
Lifts its gray turrets in the air, —
Seen from afar, like some stronghold
Built by the ocean kings of old;
And, faint as smoke-wreath white and thin,
Swells in the north vast Katahdin :
And, wandering from its marshy feet,
The broad Penobscot comes to meet
And mingle with his own bright bay.
Slow sweep his dark and gathering floods,
Arched over by the ancient woods,
Which Time, in those dim solitudes,
Wielding the dull axe of Decay,
Alone hath ever shorn away.

Not thus, within the woods which hide
The beauty of thy azure tide,
And with their falling timbers block
Thy broken currents, Kennebec !
Gazes the white man on the wreck
Of the down-trodden Norridgewock, —
In one lone village hemmed at length,
In battle shorn of half their strength,
Turned, like the panther in his lair,
With his fast-flowing life-blood wet,
For one last struggle of despair,
Wounded and faint, but tameless yet !
Unreaped, upon the planting lands,
The scant, neglected harvest stands :
No shout is there, — no dance, — no song :
The aspect of the very child
Scowls with a meaning sad and wild
Of bitterness and wrong.
The almost infant Norridgewock
Essays to lift the tomahawk ;
And plucks his father's knife away,
To mimic, in his frightful play,
The scalping of an English foe :
Wrathes on his lip a horrid smile,
Burns, like a snake's, his small eye,
while
Some bough or sapling meets his blow.
The fisher, as he drops his line,

Starts, when he sees the hazels quiver
Along the margin of the river,
Looks up and down the rippling tide,
And grasps the firelock at his side.
For Bomazeen¹⁵ from Tacconock
Has sent his runners to Norridgewock,
With tidings that Moulton and Harmon
of York
Far up the river have come :
They have left their boats, — they have
entered the wood,
And filled the depths of the solitude
With the sound of the ranger's drum.

On the brow of a hill, which slopes to
meet
The flowing river, and bathe its feet, —
The bare-washed rock, and the drooping grass,
And the creeping vine, as the waters
pass, —
A rude and unshapely chapel stands,
Builtp in that wild by unskilled hands;
Yet the traveller knows it a place of
prayer,
For the holy sign of the cross is there :
And should he chance at that place to
be,
Of a Sabbath morn, or some hallowed day,
When prayers are made and masses are
said,
Some for the living and some for the
dead,
Well might that traveller start to see
The tall dark forms, that take their
way
From the birch canoe, on the river-shore,
And the forest paths, to that chapel
door ;
And marvel to mark the naked knees
And the dusky foreheads bending
there,
While, in coarse white vesture, over
these
In blessing or in prayer,
Stretching abroad his thin pale hands,
Like a shrouded ghost, the Jesuit¹⁶
stands.

Two forms are now in that chapel dim,
The Jesuit, silent and sad and pale.
Anxiously heeding some fearfu' tale,
Which a stranger is telling him.

MOGG MEGONE.

That stranger's garb is soiled and torn,
And wet with dew and loosely worn ;
Her fair neglected hair falls down
O'er cheeks with wind and sunshine
brown ;

Yet still, in that disordered face,
The Jesuit's cautious eye can trace
Those elements of former grace
Which, half effaced, seem scarcely less,
Even now, than perfect loveliness.

With drooping head, and voice so low,
That scarce it meets the Jesuit's
ears, —
While through her clasped fingers flow,
From the heart's fountain, hot and slow,
Her penitential tears, —
She tells the story of the woe
And evil of her years.

" O father, bear with me ; my heart
Is sick and death-like, and my brain
Seems girdled with a fiery chain,
Whose scorching links will never part,
And never cool again.
Bear with me while I speak, —but turn
Away that gentle eye, the while, —
The fires of guilt more fiercely burn
Beneath its holy smile ;
For half I fancy I can see
My mother's sainted look in thee.

" My dear lost mother ! sad and pale,
Mournfully sinking day by day,
And with a hold on life as frail
As frosted leaves, that, thin and gray,
Hang feebly on their parent spray,
And tremble in the gale ;
Yet watching o'er my childishness
With patient fondness, —not the less
For all the agony which kept
Her blue eye wakeful, while I slept ;
And checking every tear and groan
That haply might have waked my own,
And bearing still, without offence,
My idle words, and petulance ;
Reproving with a tear, —and, while
The tooth of pain was keenly preying
Upon her very heart, repaying
My brief repentance with a smile.

" O, in her meek, forgiving eye
There was a brightness not of mirth,
A light whose clear intensity
Was borrowed not of earth.

Along her cheek a deepening red
Told where the feverish hectic fed ;
And yet, each fatal token gave
To the mild beauty of her face
A newer and a dearer grace,
Unwarning of the grave.
' T was like the hue which Autumn gives
To yonder changed and dying leaves,
Breathed over by his frosty breath ;
Scarce can the gazer feel that this
Is but the spoiler's treacherous kiss,
The mocking-smile of Death !

" Sweet were the tales she used to tell
When summer's eve was dear to us,
And, fading from the darkening dell,
The glory of the sunset fell
On wooded Agamenticus, —
When, sitting by our cottage wall,
The murmur of the Saco's fall,
And the south-wind's expiring sighs
Came, softly blending, on my ear,
With the low tones I loved to hear :
Tales of the pure, —the good, —the wise, —

The holy men and maids of old,
In the all-sacred pages told ; —
Of Rachel, stooped at Haran's foun-
tains,

Amid her father's thirsty flock,
Beautiful to her kinsman seeming
As the bright angels of his dreaming,
On Padan-aran's holy rock ;
Of gentle Ruth, — and her who kept
Her awful vigil on the mountains,
By Israel's virgin daughters wept ;
Of Miriam, with her maidens, singing

The song for grateful Israel meet,
While every crimson wave was bringing
The spoils of Egypt at her feet ;
Of her, — Samaria's humble daughter,
Who paused to hear, beside her well,
Lessons of love and truth, which fell
Softly as Shiloh's flowing water ;
And saw, beneath his pilgrim guise,
The Promised One, so long foretold
By holy seer and bard of old,
Revealed before her wondering eyes !

" Slowly she faded. Day by day
Her step grew weaker in our hall,
And fainter, at each even-fall,
Her sad voice died away.
Yet on her thin, pale lip, the while,
Sat Resignation's holy smile :

And even my father checked his tread,
And hushed his voice, beside her bed :
Beneath the calm and sad rebuke
Of her meek eye's imploring look,
The scowl of hate his brow forsook,

And in his stern and gloomy eye,
At times, a few unwonted tears
Wet the dark lashes, which for years
Hatred and pride had kept so dry.

"Calm as a child to slumber soothed,
As if an angel's hand had smoothed
The still, white features into rest,
Silent and cold, without a breath
To stir the drapery on her breast,
Pain, with its keen and poisoned fang,
The horror of the mortal pang,
The suffering look her brow had worn,
The fear, the strife, the anguish gone, —
She slept at last in death !

"O, tell me, father, *was* the dead
Walk on the earth, and look on us,
And lay upon the living's head
Their blessing or their curse ?
For, O, last night she stood by me,
As I lay beneath the woodland tree !"

The Jesuit crosses himself in awe, —
"Jesu ! what was it my daughter saw ?"

"She came to me last night.
The dried leaves did not feel her
tread ;
She stood by me in the wan moonlight,
In the white robes of the dead !
Pale, and very mournfully
She bent her light form over me.
I heard no sound, I felt no breath
Breathe o'er me from that face of death :
Its blue eyes rested on my own,
Rayless and cold as eyes of stone ;
Yet, in their fixed, unchanging gaze,
Something, which spoke of early days, —
A sadness in their quiet glare,
As if love's smile were frozen there, —
Came o'er me with an icy thrill ;
O God ! I feel its presence still !"

The Jesuit makes the holy sign, —
"How passed the vision, daughter
mine ?"

"All dimly in the wan moonshine,
As a wreath of mist will twist and twine,

And scatter, and melt into the light, —
So scattering, — melting on my sight,
The pale, cold vision passed ;
But those sad eyes were fixed on mine
Mournfully to the last."

"God help thee, daughter, tell me why
That spirit passed before thine eye !"

"Father, I know not, save it be
That deeds of mine have summoned
her

From the unbreathing sepulchre,
To leave her last rebuke with me.
Ah, woe for me ! my mother died
Just at the moment when I stood
Close on the verge of womanhood,
A child in everything beside ;
And when my wild heart needed most
Her gentle counsels, they were lost.

"My father lived a stormy life,
Of frequent change and daily strife ;
And, — God forgive him ! left his child
To feel, like him, a freedom wild ;
To love the red man's dwelling-place,
The birch boat on his shaded floods,
The wild excitement of the chase
Sweeping the ancient woods,
The camp-fire, blazing on the shore
Of the still lakes, the clear stream,
where

The idle fisher sets his wear,
Or angles in the shade, far more
Than that restraining awe I felt
Beneath my gentle mother's care,
When nightly at her knee I knelt,
With childhood's simple prayer.

"There came a change. The wild,
glad mood
Of unchecked freedom passed.
Amid the ancient solitude,
Of unshorn grass and waving wood,
And waters glancing bright and fast,
A softened voice was in my ear,
Sweet as those lulling sounds and fine.
The hunter lifts his head to hear,
Now far and faint, now full and near —
The murmur of the wind-swept pine.
A manly form was ever nigh,
A bold, free hunter, with an eye
Whose dark, keen glance had power
to wake
Both fear and love, — to awe and charm ;

'Twas as the wizard rattlesnake,
Whose evil glances lure to harm —
Whose cold and small and glittering
eye,
And brilliant coil, and changing dye,
Draw, step by step, the gazer near,
With drooping wing and cry of fear,
Yet powerless all to turn away,
A conscious, but a willing prey !

Fear, doubt, thought, life itself, ere long
Merged in one feeling deep and strong.
Faded the world which I had known,
A poor vain shadow, cold and waste ;
In the warm present bliss alone
Seemed I of actual life to taste.
Fond longings dimly understood,
The glow of passion's quickening blood,
And cherished fantasies which press
The young lip with a dream's caress, —
The heart's forecast and prophecy
Took form and life before my eye,
Seen in the glance which met my own,
Heard in the soft and pleading tone,
Felt in the arms around me cast,
And warm heart-pulses beating fast.
Ah ! scarcely yet to God above
With deeper trust, with stronger love
Has prayerful saint his meek heart lent,
Or cloistered nun at twilight bent,
Than I, before a human shrine,
As mortal and as frail as mine,
With heart, and soul, and mind, and
form,
Knelt madly to a fellow-worm.

" Full soon, upon that dream of sin,
An awful light came bursting in.
The shrine was cold, at which I knelt
The idol of that shrine was gone ;
A humbled thing of shame and guilt,
Outcast, and spurned and lone,
Wrapt in the shadows of my crime,
With withering heart and burning
brain,
And tears that fell like fiery rain,
I passed a fearful time.

" There came a voice — it checked the
tear —
In heart and soul it wrought a
change ; —
My father's voice was in my ear ;
It whispered of revenge !

A new and fiercer feeling swept
All lingering tenderness away ;
And tiger passions, which had slept
In childhood's better day,
Unknown, unfelt, arose at length
In all their own demoniac strength.

" A youthful warrior of the wild,
By words deceived, by smiles beguiled,
Of crime the cheated instrument,
Upon our fatal errands went.
Through camp and town and wilder-
ness
He tracked his victim ; and, at last,
Just when the tide of hate had passed,
And milder thoughts came warm and
fast,
Exulting, at my feet he cast
The bloody token of success.

" O God ! with what an awful power
I saw the buried past uprise,
And gather, in a single hour,
Its ghost-like memories !
And then I felt — alas ! too late —
That underneath the mask of hate,
That shame and guilt and wrong had
thrown
O'er feelings which they might not own,
The heart's wild love had known no
change ;
And still, that deep and hidden love,
With its first fondness, wept above
The victim of its own revenge !
There lay the fearful scalp, and there
The blood was on its pale brown hair !
I thought not of the victim's scorn,
I thought not of his baleful guile,
My deadly wrong, my outcast name,
The characters of sin and shame
On heart and forehead drawn ;
I only saw that victim's smile, —
The still, green places where we met, —
The moonlit branches, dewy wet ;
I only felt, I only heard
The greeting and the parting word, —
The smile, — the embrace, — the tone,
which made
An Eden of the forest shade.

" And oh, with what a loathing eye,
With what a deadly hate, and deep,
I saw that Indian murderer lie
Before me, in his drunken sleep !

What though for me the deed was done,
And words of mine had sped him on !
Yet when he murmured, as he slept,
The horrors of that deed of blood,
The tide of utter madness swept
O'er brain and bosom, like a flood.
And, father, with this hand of mine — ”
“ Ha ! what didst thou ? ” the Jesuit
cries,
Shuddering, assmitten with sudden pain,
And shading, with one thin hand, his
eyes,
With the other he makes the holy sign.
“ — I smote him as I would a worm ; —
With heart as steeled, with nerves as
firm :
He never woke again ! ”

“ Woman of sin and blood and shame,
Speak, — I would know that victim's
name.”

“ Father,” she gasped, “ a chieftain,
known
As Saco's Sachem, — MOGG MEGONE ! ”
Pale priest ! What proud and lofty
dreams,
What keen desires, what cherished
schemes,
What hopes, that time may not recall,
Are darkened by that chieftain's fall !
Was he not pledged, by cross and vow,
To lift the hatchet of his sire,
And, round his own, the Church's foe,
To light the avenging fire ?
Who now the Tarrantine shall wake,
For thine and for the Church's sake ?
Who summon to the scene
Of conquest and unsparing strife,
And vengeance dearer than his life,
The fiery-souled Castine ? ”

Three backward steps the Jesuit
takes, —
His long, thin frame as ague shakes ;
And loathing hate is in his eye,
As from his lips these words of fear
Fall hoarsely on the maiden's ear, —
“ The soul that sinneth shall surely
die ! ”

She stands, as stands the stricken deer,
Checked midway in the fearful chase,
When bursts, upon his eye and ear,
The gaunt, gray robber, baying near,
Between him and his hiding-place ;
While still behind, with yell and blow,
Sweeps, like a storm, the coming foe.
“ Save me, O holy man ! ” — her cry
Fills all the void, as if a tongue,
Unseen, from rib and rafter hung,
Thrilling with mortal agony ;
Her hands are clasping the Jesuit's
knee,
And her eye looks fearfully into his
own ; —
“ Off, woman of sin ! — nay, touch not
me
With those fingers of blood ; — be
gone ! ”
With a gesture of horror, he spurns the
form
That writhes at his feet like a trodden
worm.

Ever thus the spirit must,
Guilty in the sight of Heaven,
With a keener woe be riven,
For its weak and sinful trust
In the strength of human dust ;
And its anguish thrill afresh,
For each vain reliance given
To the failing arm of flesh.

PART III.

Ah, weary Priest ! — with pale hands
pressed
On thy throbbing brow of pain,
Baffled in thy life-long quest,
Overworn with toiling vain,
How ill thy troubled musings fit
The holy quiet of a breast
With the Dove of Peace at rest,
Sweetly brooding over it.

Thoughts are thine which have no part
With the meek and pure of heart,
Undisturbed by outward things,
Resting in the heavenly shade,
By the oversreading wings
Of the Blessed Spirit made.
Thoughts o' strife and hate and wrong
Sweep thy created brain along, —
Fading hopes, for whose success

It were sin to breathe a prayer ;—
Schemes which Heaven may never
bless, —

Fears which darken to despair.
Hoary priest ! thy dream is done
Of a hundred red tribes won

To the pale of Holy Church ;
And the heretic o'erthrown,
And his name no longer known,
And thy weary brethren turning,
Joyful from their years of mourning,
Twixt the altar and the porch.
Hark ! what sudden sound is heard
In the wood and in the sky,
Shriller than the scream of bird, —

Than the trumpet's clang more high !
Every wolf-cave of the hills, —

Forest arch and mountain gorge,
Rock and dell, and river verge, —
With an answering echo thrills.
Well does the Jesuit know that cry,
Which summons the Norridgewock to
die,

And tells that the foe of his flock is nigh.
He listens, and hears the rangers come,
With loud hurrah, and jar of drum,
And hurrying feet (for the chase is hot),
And the short, sharp sound of rifle shot,
And taunt and menace, — answered well
By the Indians' mocking cry and yell, —
The bark of dogs, — the squaw's mad
scream, —

The dash of paddles along the stream, —
The whistle of shot as it cuts the leaves
Of the maples around the church's
eaves, —

And the grid of hatchets, fiercely
thrown,
On wigwam-log and tree and stone.
Black with the grime of paint and dust,
Spotted and streaked with human
gore,

A grim and naked head is thrust
Within the chapel-door.
“ Ha — Bomazeen ! — In God's name
say,
What mean these sounds of bloody
fray ? ”

Silent, the Indian points his hand
To where across the echoing glen
Sweep Harmon's dreaded ranger-band,
And Moulton with his men.
“ Where are thy warriors, Bomazeen ?
Where are De Rouville¹⁶ and Castine,

And where the braves of Sawgi's
queen ? ”

“ Let my father find the winter snow
Which the sun drank up long moonsgo! Under the falls of Taconock,
The wolves are eating the Norridge-
wock ;

Castine with his wives lies closely hid
Like a fox in the woods of Pemaquid!
On Sawga's banks the man of war
Sits in his wigwam like a squaw, —
Squando has fled, and Mogg Megone,
Struck by the knife of Sagamore John,
Lies stiff and stark and cold as a stone.”

Fearfully over the Jesuit's face,
Of a thousand thoughts, trace and
trace,
Like swift cloud-shadows, each other
chase.

One instant, his fingers grasp his knife,
For a last vain struggle for cherished
life, —

The next, he hurls the blade away,
And kneels at his altar's foot to pray;
Over his beads his fingers stray,
And he kisses the cross, and calls aloud
On the Virgin and her Son ;
For terrible thoughts his memory crowd

Of evil seen and done, —
Of scalps brought home by his savage
flock

From Casco and Sawga and Sagada-
hock,
In the Church's service won.

No shrift the gloomy savage brooks,
As scowling on the priest he looks :
“ Cowesass — cowesass — tawwhich wes-
saseen ? ”¹⁹

Let my father look upon Bomazeen, —
My father's heart is the heart of a
squaw,

But mine is so hard that it does not thaw:
Let my father ask his God to make
A dance and a feast for a great saga-
more,

When he paddles across the western
lake,
With his dogs and his squaws to the
spirit's shore.

Cowesass — cowesass — tawwhich wes-
saseen ?

Let my father die like Bomazeen ! ”

Through the chapel's narrow doors,
And through each window in the walls,
Round the priest and warrior pours
The deadly shower of English balls.
Low on his cross the Jesuit falls ;
While at his side the Norridgewock,
With failing breath, essays to mock
And menace yet the hated foe, —
Shakes his scalp-trophies to and fro
Exultingly before their eyes, —
Till, cleft and torn by shot and blow,
Defiant still, he dies.

" So fare all eaters of the frog !
Death to the Babylonish dog !
Down with the beast of Rome ! "
With shouts like these, around the dead,
Unconscious on his bloody bed,
The rangers crowding come.
Brave men ! the dead priest cannot hear
The unfeeling taunt, —the brutal jeer; —
Spurn — for he sees ye not — in wrath,
The symbol of your Saviour's death ;
Tear from his death-grasp, in your
zeal,
And trample, as a thing accursed,
The cross he cherished in the dust :
The dead man cannot feel !

Brutal alike in deed and word,
With callous heart and hand of strife,
How like a fiend may man be made,
Plying the foul and monstrous trade
Whose harvest-field is human life,
Whose sickle is the reeking sword !
Quenching, with reckless hand in blood,
Sparks kindled by the breath of God ;
Urging the deathless soul, unshiven,
Of open guilt or secret sin,
Before the bar of that pure Heaven
The holy only enter in !
O, by the widow's sore distress,
The orphan's wailing wretchedness,
By Virtue struggling in the accursed
Embraces of polluting Lust,
By the fell discord of the Pit,
And the pained souls that people it,
And by the blessed peace which fills
The Paradise of God forever,
Resting on all its holy hills,
And flowing with its crystal river, —
Let Christian hands no longer bear
In triumph on his crimson car

The foul and idol god of war ;
No more the purple wreaths prepare
To bind amid his snaky hair ;
Nor Christian bards his glories tell,
Nor Christian tongues his praises swell.

Through the gun-smoke wreathing white,
Glimpses on the soldiers' sight
A thing of human shape I ween,
For a moment only seen,
With its loose hair backward streaming,
And its eyeballs madly gleaming,
Shrieking, like a soul in pain.
From the world of light and breath,
Hurrying to its place again,
Spectre-like it vanisheth !

Wretched girl ! one eye alone
Notes the way which thou hast gone.
That great Eye, which slumbers never,
Watching o'er a lost world ever,
Tracks thee over vale and mountain,
By the gushing forest-fountain,
Plucking from the vine its fruit,
Searching for the ground-nut's root,
Peering in the she-wolf's den,
Wading through the marshy fen,
Where the sluggish water-snake
Basks beside the sunny brake,
Coiling in his slimy bed,
Smooth and cold against thy tread, —
Purposeless, thy mazy way
Threading through the lingering day.
And at night securely sleeping
Where the dogwood's dews are weeping !
Still, though earth and man discard
thee,
Doth thy Heavenly Father guard thee ?
He who spared the guilty Cain,
Even when a brother's blood,
Crying in the ear of God,
Gave the earth its primal stain, —
He whose mercy ever liveth,
Who repenting guilt forgiveth,
And the broken heart receiveth, —
Wanderer of the wilderness,
Haunted, guilty, crazed, and wild,
He regardeth thy distress,
And careth for his sinful child !

'T is spring-time on the eastern hills !
Like torrents gush the summer rills ;

Through winter's moss and dry dead leaves
 The bladed grass revives and lives,
 Pushes the mouldering waste away,
 And glimpses to the April day.
 In kindly shower and sunshine bud
 The branches of the dull gray wood ;
 Out from its sunned and sheltered nooks
 The blue eye of the violet looks ;
 The southwest wind is warmly blowing,
 And odors from the springing grass,
 The pine-tree and the sassafras,
 Are with it on its errands going.

A band is marching through the wood
 Where rolls the Kennebec his flood,—
 The warriors of the wilderness,
 Painted, and in their battle dress ;
 And with them one whose bearded cheek,
 And white and wrinkled brow, bespeak
 A wanderer from the shores of France.
 A few long locks of scattering snow
 Beneath a battered morion flow,
 And from the rivets of the vest
 Which girds in steel his ample breast,
 The slanted sunbeams glance.
 In the harsh outlines of his face
 Passion and sin have left their trace ;
 Yet, save worn brow and thin gray hair,
 No signs of weary age are there.
 His step is firm, his eye is keen,
 Nor years in broil and battle spent,
 Nor toil, nor wounds, nor pain have bent
 The lordly frame of old Castine.

No purpose now of strife and blood
 Urges the hoary veteran on :
 The fire of conquest, and the mood
 Of chivalry have gone.
 A mournful task is his, — to lay
 Within the earth the bones of those
 Who perished in that fearful day,
 When Norridgewock became the prey
 Of all unsparing foes.
 Sadly and still, dark thoughts between,
 Of coming vengeance mused Castine,
 Of the fallen chieftain Bomazeen,
 Who bade for him the Norridgewocks
 Dig up their buried tomahawks

For firm defence or swift attack ;
 And him whose friendship formed the tie
 Which held the stern self-exile back
 From lapsing into savagery ;
 Whose garb and tone and kindly glance
 Recalled a younger, happier day,
 And prompted memory's fond essay,
 To bridge the mighty waste which lay
 Between his wild home and that gray,
 Tall chateau of his native France,
 Whose chapel bell, with far-heard din
 Ushered his birth-hour gayly in,
 And counted with its solemn toll
 The masses for his father's soul.

Hark ! from the foremost of the band
 Suddenly bursts the Indian yell ;
 For now on the very spot they stand
 Where the Norridgewocks fighting fell.
 No wigwam smoke is curling there ;
 The very earth is scorched and bare :
 And they pause and listen to catch a sound
 Of breathing life, — but there comes not one,
 Save the fox's bark and the rabbit's bound ;
 But here and there, on the blackened ground,
 White bones are glistening in the sun.
 And where the house of prayer arose,
 And the holy hymn, at daylight's close,
 And the aged priest stood up to bless
 The children of the wilderness,
 There is naught save ashes sodden and dank ;
 And the birchen boats of the Norridgewock,
 Tethered to tree and stump and rock,
 Rotting along the river bank !

Blessed Mary ! who is she
 Leaning against that maple-tree ?
 The sun upon her face burns hot,
 But the fixed eyelid moveth not ;
 The squirrel's chirp is shrill and clear
 From the dry bough above her ear ;
 Dashing from rock and root its spray,
 Close at her feet the river rushes ;
 The blackbird's wing against her bushes,
 And sweetly through the hazel-bushes

The robin's mellow music gushes;—
God save her! will she sleep alway?

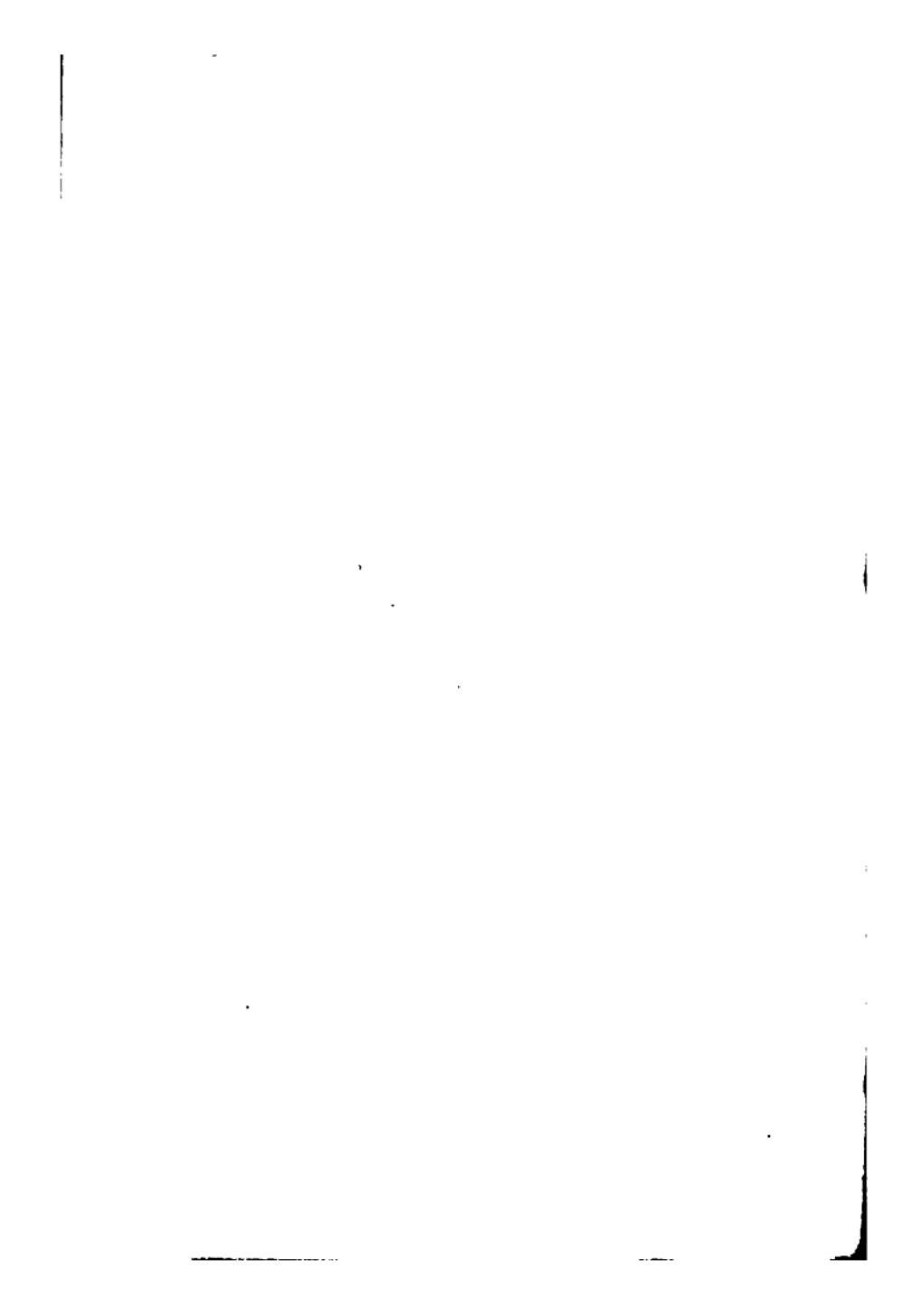
Castine hath bent him over the sleeper:
"Wake, daughter,—wake!"—but
she stir no limb:
The eye that looks on him is fixed
and dim;

And the sleep she is sleeping shall be
no deeper,
Until the angel's oath is said,
And the final blast of the trump goes
forth
To the graves of the sea and the graves
of earth.
RUTH BONYTHON IS DEAD!



THE BRIDAL OF PENNACOOK.

1848.



THE BRIDAL OF PENNACOOK.²⁰

We had been wandering for many days
Through the rough northern country.
We had seen
The sunset, with its bars of purple
cloud,
Like a new heaven, shine upward from
the lake
Of Winnepiseogee; and had felt
The sunrise breezes, midst the leafy isles
Which stoop their summer beauty to
the lips
Of the bright waters. We had checked
our steeds,
Silent with wonder, where the moun-
tain wall
Is piled to heaven; and, through the
narrow rift
Of the vast rocks, against whose rugged
feet
Beats the mad torrent with perpetual
roar,
Where noonday is as twilight, and the
wind
Comes burdened with the everlasting
moan
Of forests and of far-off waterfalls,
We had looked upward where the sum-
mer sky,
Tasselled with clouds light-woven by
the sun,
Sprung its blue arch above the abut-
ting crags
O'er-roofing the vast portal of the land
Beyond the wall of mountains. We
had passed
The high source of the Saco; and be-
wildered
In the dwarf spruce-belts of the Crystal
Hills,
Had heard above us, like a voice in the
cloud,
The horn of Fabyan sounding; and
atop

Of old Agioochook had seen the moun-
tains
Piled to the northward, shagged with
wood, and thick
As meadow mole-hills, — the far sea of
Casco,
A white gleam on the horizon of the
east;
Fair lakes, embosomed in the woods
and hills;
Moosehillock's mountain range, and
Kearsarge
Lifting his Titan forehead to the sun!

And we had rested underneath the oaks
Shadowing the bank, whose grassy
spires are shaken
By the perpetual beating of the falls
Of the wild Ammonoosuc. We had
tracked
The winding Pemigewasset, overhung
By beechen shadows, whitening down
its rocks,
Or lazily gliding through its intervals,
From waving rye-fields sending up the
gleam
Of sunlit waters. We had seen the
moon
Rising behind Umbagog's eastermpines,
Like a great Indian camp-fire; and its
beams
At midnight spanning with a bridge of
silver
The Merrimack by Uncanoonuc's falls.

There were five souls of us whom trav-
el's chance
Had thrown together in these wild
north hills: —
A city lawyer, for a month escaping
From his dull office, where the weary eye
Saw only hot brick walls and close
thronged streets, —

THE BRIDAL OF PENNACOOK.

Briefless as yet, but with an eye to see
Life's sunniest side, and with a heart to
take
Its chances all as godsends ; and his
brother,
Pale from long pulpit studies, yet re-
taining
The warmth and freshness of a genial
heart,
Whose mirror of the beautiful and true,
In Man and Nature, was as yet un-
dimmed
By dust of theologic strife, or breath
Of sect, or cobwebs of scholastic lore ;
Like a clear crystal calm of water, taking
The hue and image of o'erleaning flow-
ers,
Sweet human faces, white clouds of the
noon,
Slant starlight glimpses through the
dewy leaves,
And tenderest moonrise. 'T was, in
truth, a study,
To mark his spirit, alternating between
A decent and professional gravity
And an irreverent mirthfulness, which
often
Laughed in the face of his divinity,
Plucked off the sacred ephod, quite
unshried
The oracle, and for the pattern priest
Left us the man. A shrewd, sagacious
merchant,
To whom the soiled sheet found in
Crawford's inn,
Giving the latest news of city stocks
And sales of cotton, had a deeper mean-
ing
Than the great presence of the awful
mountains
Glorified by the sunset ; — and his
daughter
A delicate flower on whom had blown
too long
Those evil winds, which, sweeping
from the ice
And winnowing the fogs of Labrador,
Shed their cold blight round Massa-
chusett's Bay,
With the same breath which stirs
Spring's opening leaves
And lifts her half-formed flower-bell on
its stem,
Poisoning our seaside atmosphere.

It chanced
That as we turned upon our homeward
way,
A drear northeastern storm came howl-
ing up
The valley of the Saco ; and that girl
Who had stood with us upon Mount
Washington,
Her brown locks ruffled by the wind
which whirled
In gusts around its sharp cold pinnacle,
Who had joined our gay trout-fishing
in the streams
Which lave that giant's feet ; whose
laugh was heard
Like a bird's carol on the sunrise breeze
Which swelled our sail amidst the
lake's green islands,
Shrank from its harsh, chill breath, and
visibly drooped
Like a flower in the frost. So, in that
quiet inn
Which looks from Conway on the
mountains piled
Heavily against the horizon of the north,
Like summer thunder-clouds, we made
our home :
And while the mist hung over dripping
hills,
And the cold wind-driven rain-drops
all day long
Beat their sad music upon roof and pane,
We strove to cheer our gentle invalid.

The lawyer in the pauses of the storm
Went angling down the Saco, and, re-
turning,
Recounted his adventures and mishaps ;
Gave us the history of his scaly clients,
Mingling with ludicrous yet apt citations
Of barbarous law Latin, passages
From Izaak Walton's Angler, sweet and
fresh
As the flower-skirted streams of Staf-
fordshire,
Where, under aged trees, the southwest
wind
Of soft June mornings fanned the thin,
white hair
Of the sage fisher. And, if truth be told,
Our youthful candidate forsook his ser-
mons,
His commentaries, articles and creeds,
For the fair page of human loveliness, —

The missal of young hearts, whose sacred text
Is music, its illumining sweet smiles.
He sang the songs she loved; and in his low,
Deep, earnest voice, recited many a page
Of poetry, — the holiest, tenderest lines
Of the sad bard of Olney, — the sweet songs,
Simple and beautiful as Truth and Nature,
Of him whose whitened locks on Rydal Mount
Are lifted yet by morning breezes blowing
From the green hills, immortal in his lays.
And for myself, obedient to her wish,
I searched our landlord's proffered library, —
A well-thumbed Bunyan, with its nice wood pictures
Of scaly fiends and angels not unlike them, —
Watts' unmelodious psalms, — Astrolagy's
Last home, a musty pile of almanacs,
And an old chronicle of border wars
And Indian history. And, as I read
A story of the marriage of the Chief
Of Saugus to the dusky Weetamoo,
Daughter of Passaconaway, who dwelt
In the old time upon the Merrimack,
Our fair one, in the playful exercise
Of her prerogative, — the right divine
Of youth and beauty, — bade us versify
The legend, and with ready pencil sketched
Its plan and outlines, laughingly assigning
To each his part, and barring our excuses
With absolute will. So, like the cavaliers
Whose voices still are heard in the Romance
Of silver-tongued Boccaccio, on the banks
Of Arno, with soft tales of love beguiling
The ear of languid beauty, plague-exiled
From stately Florence, we rehearsed
our rhymes
To their fair auditor, and shared by turns
Her kind approval and her playful censure.

It may be that these fragments owe alone
To the fair setting of their circumstances, —
The associations of time, scene, and audience, —
Their place amid the pictures which fill up
The chambers of my memory. Yet I trust
That some, who sigh, while wandering in thought,
Pilgrims of Romance o'er the olden world,
That our broad land, — our sea-like lakes and mountains
Piled to the clouds, — our rivers overhung
By forests which have known no other change
For ages, than the budding and the fall
Of leaves, — our valleys lovelier than those
Which the old poets sang of, — should but figure
On the apocryphal chart of speculation
As pastures, wood-lots, mill-sites, with the privileges,
Rights, and appurtenances, which make up
A Yankee Paradise, — unsung, unknown,
To beautiful tradition; even their names,
Whose melody yet lingers like the last vibration
Of the red man's requiem, Exchanged for syllables significant
Of cotton-mill and rail-car, will look kindly
Upon this effort to call up the ghost
Of our dim Past, and listen with pleased ear
To the responses of the questioned Shade.

I. THE MERRIMACK.

O CHILD of that white-crested mountain whose springs gush forth in the shade of the cliff eagle's wings,

Down whose slopes to the lowlands thy
wild waters shine,
Leaping gray walls of rock, flashing
through the dwarf pine.

From that cloud-curtained cradle so
cold and so lone,
From the arms of that wintry-locked
mother of stone,
By hills hung with forests, through
vales wide and free,
Thy mountain-born brightness glanced
down to the sea !

No bridge arched thy waters save that
where the trees
Stretched their long arms above thee
and kissed in the breeze :
No sound save the lapse of the waves
on thy shores,
The plunging of otters, the light dip of
oars.

Green-tufted, oak-shaded, by Amos-
keag's fall
Thy twin Uncanoonucs rose stately and
tall,
Thy Nashua meadows lay green and
unshorn,
And the hills of Pentucket were tas-
seled with corn.

But thy Pennacook valley was fairer
than these,
And greener its grasses and taller its
trees,
Ere the sound of an axe in the forest
had rung,
Or the mower his scythe in the mead-
ows had swung.

In their sheltered repose looking out
from the wood
The bark-builted wigwams of Penna-
cook stood,
There glided the corn-dance, the coun-
cil-fire shone,
And against the red-war-post the hatchet
was thrown.

There the old smoked in silence their
pipes, and the young
To the pike and the white-perch their
baited lines flung :

There the boy shaped his arrows, and
there the shy maid
Wove her many-hued baskets and
bright wampum braid.

O Stream of the Mountains ! if answer
of thine
Could rise from thy waters to question
of mine,
Methinks through the din of thy
thronged banks a moan
Of sorrow would swell for the days
which have gone.

Not for thee the dull jar of the loom
and the wheel,
The gliding of shuttles, the ringing of
steel ;
But that old voice of waters, of bird and
of breeze,
The dip of the wild-fowl, the rustling
of trees !

II. THE BASHABA.²¹

LIFT we the twilight curtains of the
Past,
And, turning from familiar sight and
sound,
Sadly and full of reverence let us cast
A glance upon Tradition's shadowy
ground,
Led by the few pale lights which, gliri'
mering round
That dim, strange land of Eld, seem
dying fast ;
And that which history gives not to the
eye,
The faded coloring of Time's tapestry,
Let Fancy, with her dream-dipped
brush supply.

Roof of bark and walls of pine,
Through whose chinks the sunbeams
shine,
Tracing many a golden line
On the ample floor within ;
Where upon that earth-floor stark,
Lay the gaudy mats of bark,
With the bear's hide, rough and dark,
And the red-deer's skin.

Window-tracery, small and slight,
Woven of the willow white,
Lent a dimly checkered light,
And the night-stars glimmered down,
Where the lodge-fire's heavy smoke,
Slowly through an opening broke,
In the low roof, ribbed with oak,
Sheathed with hemlock brown.

Gloomed behind the changeless shade,
By the solemn pine-wood made ;
Through the rugged palisade,
In the open foreground planted,
Glimpses came of rowers rowing,
Stir of leaves and wild-flowers blowing,
Steel-like gleams of water flowing,
In the sunlight slanted.

Here the mighty Bashaba,
Held his long-unquestioned sway,
From the White Hills, far away,
To the great sea's sounding shore ;
Chief of chiefs, his regal word
All the river Sachems heard,
At his call the war-dance stirred,
Or was still once more.

There his spoils of chase and war,
Jaw of wolf and black bear's paw,
Panther's skin and eagle's claw,
Lay beside his axe and bow ;
And, adown the roof-pole hung,
Loosely on a snake-skin strung,
In the smoke his scalp-locks swung
Grimly to and fro.

Nightly down the river going,
Swifter was the hunter's rowing,
When he saw that lodge-fire glowing
O'er the waters still and red ;
And the squaw's dark eye burned
brighter,
And she drew her blanket tighter,
As, with quicker step and lighter,
From that door she fled.

For that chief had magic skill,
And a Panisee's dark will,
Over powers of good and ill,
Powers which bless and powers which
ban, —

Wizard lord of Pennacook,
Chiefs upon their war-path shook,
When they met the steady look
Of that wise dark man.

Tales of him the gray squaw told,
When the winter night-wind cold
Pierced her blanket's thickest fold,
And the fire burned low and small,
Till the very child abed,
Drew its bear-skin over head,
Shrinking from the pale lights shed
On the trembling wall.

All the subtle spirits hiding
Under earth or wave, abiding
In the caverned rock, or riding
Misty clouds or morning breeze ;
Every dark intelligence,
Secret soul, and influence
Of all things which outward sense
Feels, or hears, or sees, —

These the wizard's skill confessed,
At his bidding banned or blessed,
Stormful woke or lulled to rest
Wind and cloud, and fire and flood ;
Burned for him the drifted snow,
Bade through ice fresh lilies blow,
And the leaves of summer grow
Over winter's wood !

Not untrue that tale of old !
Now, as then, the wise and bold
All the powers of Nature hold
Subject to their kingly will ;
From the wondering crowds ashore,
Treading life's wild waters o'er,
As upon a marble floor,
Moves the strong man still.

Still, to such, life's elements
With their sterner laws dispense,
And the chain of consequence
Broken in their pathway lies ;
Time and change their vassals making,
Flowers from icy pillows waking,
Tresses of the sunrise shaking
Over midnight skies.

Still, to earnest souls, the sun
Rests on towered Gibeon,
And the moon of Ajalon
Lights the battle-fields of life ;
To his aid the strong reverses
Hidden powers and giant forces,
And the high stars, in their courses,
Mingle in his strife !

III. THE DAUGHTER.

THE soot-black brows of men, — the yell
 Of women thronging round the bed, —
 The tinkling charm of ring and shell, —
 The Powah whispering o'er the dead ! —
 All these the Sachem's home had known,
 When, on her journey long and wild
 To the dim World of Souls, alone,
 In her young beauty passed the mother of his child.

Three bow-shots from the Sachem's dwelling
 They laid her in the walnut shade,
 Where a green hillock gently swelling
 Her fitting mound of burial made.
 There trailed the vine in summer hours,
 The tree-perched squirrel dropped his shell, —
 On velvet moss and pale-hued flowers,
 Woven with leaf and spray, the softened sunshine fell !

The Indian's heart is hard and cold,—
 It closes darkly o'er its care,
 And formed in Nature's sternest mould,
 Is slow to feel, and strong to bear.
 The war-paint on the Sachem's face,
 Unwet with tears, shone fierce and red,
 And, still in battle or in chase,
 Dry leaf and snow-rime crисped beneath his foremost tread.

Yet when her name was heard no more,
 And when the robe her mother gave,
 And small, light moccasin she wore,
 Had slowly wasted on her grave,
 Unmarked of him the dark maids sped
 Their sunset dance and moonlit play ;
 No other shared his lonely bed,
 No other fair young head upon his bosom lay.

A lone, stern man. Yet, as sometimes
 The tempest-smitten tree receives

From one small root the sap which climbs
 Its topmost spray and crowning leaves,
 So from his child the Sachem drew
 A life of Love and Hope, and felt
 His cold and rugged nature through
 The softness and the warmth of her young being melt.

A laugh which in the woodland rang
 Bemocking April's gladdest bird, —
 A light and graceful form which sprang
 To meet him when his step was heard, —
 Eyes by his lodge-fire flashing dark,
 Small fingers stringing bead and shell
 Or weaving mats of bright-hued bark, —
 With these the household-god^{as} had graced his wigwam well.

Child of the forest ! — strong and free,
 Slight-robed, with loosely flowing hair,
 She swam the lake or climbed the tree,
 Or struck the flying bird in air.
 O'er the heaped drifts of winter's moon
 Her snow-shoes tracked the hunter's way ;
 And dazzling in the summer noon
 The blade of her light oar threw off its shower of spray !

Unknown to her the rigid rule,
 The dull restraint, the chiding frown,
 The weary torture of the school,
 The taming of wild nature down.
 Her only lore, the legends told
 Around the hunter's fire at night ;
 Stars rose and set, and seasons rolled,
 Flowers bloomed and snow-flakes fell,
 Unquestioned in her sight.

Unknown to her the subtle skill
 With which the artist-eye can trace
 In rock and tree and lake and hill
 The outlines of divinest grace ;
 Unknown the fine soul's keen unrest,
 Which sees, admires, yet yearns alway ;

Too closely on her mother's breast
To note her smiles of love the child of
Nature lay !

It is enough for such to be
Of common, natural things a part,
To feel, with bird and stream and tree,
The pulses of the same great heart ;
But we, from Nature long exiled
In our cold homes of Art and
Thought,
Grieve like the stranger-tended child,
Which seeks its mother's arms, and
sees but feels them not.

The garden rose may richly bloom
In cultured soil and genial air,
To cloud the light of Fashion's room
Or droop in Beauty's midnight hair,
In lonelier grace, to sun and dew
The sweetbrier on the hillside
shows
Its single leaf and fainter hue,
Untrained and wildly free, yet still a
sister rose !

Thus o'er the heart of Weetamoo
Their mingling shades of joy and
ill
Tae instincts of her nature threw,—
The savage was a woman still.
Midst outlines dim of maiden schemes,
Heart-colored prophecies of life,
Rose on the ground of her young
dreams
The light of a new home,—the lover
and the wife.

IV. THE WEDDING.

Cool and dark fell the autumn night,
But the Bashaba's wigwam glowed with
light,
For down from its roof by green withes
hung
Flaring and smoking the pine-knots
swung.

And along the river great wood-fires
Shot into the night their long red spires,
Showing behind the tall, dark wood,
Flashing before on the sweeping flood.

In the changeful wind, with shimmer
and shade,
Now high, now low, that firelight
played,

On tree-leaves wet with evening dews,
On gliding water and still canoes.

The trapper that night on Turee's brook,
And the weary fisher on Contoocook,
Saw over the marshes and through the
pine,
And down on the river the dance-lights
shine.

For the Saugus Sachem had come to
woo

The Bashaba's daughter Weetamoo,
And laid at her father's feet that night
His softest furs and wampum white.

From the Crystal Hills to the far
southeast

The river Sagamores came to the feast ;
And chiefs whose homes the sea-winds
shook,
Sat down on the mats of Pennacook.

They came from Sunapee's shore of
rock,
From the snowy sources of Snooganock,
And from rough Coës whose thick
woods shake
Their pine-cones in Umbagog Lake.

From Ammonoosuc's mountain pass,
Wild as his home, came Chepwass ;
And the Keenomps of the hills which
throw
Their shade on the Smile of Manito.

With pipes of peace and bows unstrung,
Glowing with paint came old and young,
In wampum and furs and feathers ar-
rayed
To the dance and feast the Bashaba
made.

Bird of the air and beast of the field,
All which the woods and waters yield,
On dishes of birch and hemlock piled,
Garnished and graced that banquet
wild.

Steaks of the brown bear fat and large
From the rocky slopes of the Kear-
sarge ;

THE BRIDAL OF PENNACOOK.

Delicate trout from Babboosuck brook,
And salmon speared in the Contoocook;

Squirrels which fed where nuts fell
thick

In the gravelly bed of the Otternic,
And small wild-hens in reed-snare
caught
From the banks of Sondagardee
brought;

Pike and perch from the Suncook taken,
Nuts from the trees of the Black Hills
shaken,
Cranberries picked in the Squamscot
bog,
And grapes from the vines of Piscata-
quog :

And, drawn from that great stone vase
which stands
In the river scooped by a spirit's
hands,³³
Garnished with spoons of shell and
horn,
Stood the birchen dishes of smoking
corn.

Thus bird of the air and beast of the
field,
All which the woods and the waters
yield,
Furnished in that olden day
The bridal feast of the Bashaba.

And merrily when that feast was done
(On the fire-lit green the dance begun,
With squaws' shrill stave, and deeper
hum
Of old men beating the Indian drum.

Painted and plumed, with scalp-locks
flowing,
And red arms tossing and black eyes
glowing,
Now in the light and now in the shade
Around the fires the dancers played.

The step was quicker, the song more
shrill,
And the beat of the small drums louder
still
Whenever within the circle drew
The Saugus Sachem and Weetamoo.

The moons of forty winters had shed
Their snow upon that chieftain's head,
And toil and care, and battle's chance
Had seamed his hard dark countenance.

A fawn beside the bison grim, —
Why turns the bride's fond eye on him,
In whose cold look is naught beside
The triumph of a sullen pride?

Ask why the graceful grape entwines
The rough oak with her arm of vines;
And why the gray rock's rugged cheek
The soft lips of the mosses seek :

Why, with wise instinct, Nature seems
To harmonize her wide extremes,
Linking the stronger with the weak,
The haughty with the soft and meek!

V. THE NEW HOME.

A WILD and broken landscape, spiked
with firs,
Roughening the bleak horizon's north-
ern edge,
Steep, cavernous hillsides, where black
hemlock spurs
And sharp, gray splinters of the wind-
swept ledge
Pierced the thin-glazed ice, or bristling
rose,
Where the cold rim of the sky sunk down
upon the snows.

And eastward cold, wide marshes
stretched away,
Dull, dreary flats without a bush or
tree,
O'er-crossed by icy creeks, where twice a
day
Gurgled the waters of the moon-struck
sea;
And faint with distance came the stifled
roar,
The melancholy lapse of waves on that
low shore.

No cheerful village with its mingling
smokes,
No laugh of children wrestling in the
snow,

No camp-fire blazing through the hill-side oaks,
No fishers kneeling on the ice below;
Yet midst all desolate things of sound and view,
Through the long winter moons smiled dark-eyed Weetamoo.

Her heart had found a home; and freshly all
Its beautiful affections overgrew
Their rugged prop. As o'er some granite wall
Soft vine-leaves open to the moistening dew
And warm bright sun, the love of that young wife
Found on a hard cold breast the dew and warmth of life.

The steep bleak hills, the melancholy shore,
The long dead level of the marsh between,
A coloring of unreal beauty wore
Through the soft golden mist of young love seen.
For o'er those hills and from that dreary plain,
Nightly she welcomed home her hunter chief again.

No warmth of heart, no passionate burst of feeling
Repaid her welcoming smile and parting kiss,
No fond and playful dalliance half concealing,
Under the guise of mirth, its tenderness;
But, in their stead, the warrior's settled pride,
And vanity's pleased smile with homage satisfied.

Enough for Weetamoo, that she alone
Sat on his mat and slumbered at his side;
That he whose fame to her young ear had flown
Now looked upon her proudly as his bride;

That he whose name the Mohawk trembling heard
Vouchsafed to her at times a kindly look or word.

For she had learned the maxims of her race,
Which teach the woman to become a slave
And feel herself the pardonless disgrace
Of love's fond weakness in the wise and brave,—
The scandal and the shame which they incur,
Who give to woman all which man requires of her.

So passed the winter moons. The sun at last
Broke link by link the frost chain of the rills,
And the warm breathings of the southwest passed
Over the hoar rime of the Saugus hills,
The gray and desolate marsh grew green once more,
And the birch-tree's tremulous shade fell round the Sachem's door.

Then from far Pennacook swift runners came,
With gift and greeting for the Saugus chief;
Beseeching him in the great Sachem's name,
That, with the coming of the flower and leaf,
The song of birds, the warm breeze and the rain,
Young Weetamoo might greet her lonely eire again.

And Winnepurkit called his chiefs together,
And a grave council in his wigwam met,
Solemn and brief in words, considering whether
The rigid rules of forest etiquette
Permitted Weetamoo once more to look
Upon her father's face and green-banked Pennacook.

THE BRIDAL OF PENNACOOK.

With interludes of pipe-smoke and strong water,
The forest sages pondered, and at length,
Concluded in a body to escort her Up to her father's home of pride and strength,
Impressing thus on Pennacook a sense Of Winnepurkit's power and regal consequence.

So through old woods which Aukeetamit's hand,
A soft and many-shaded greenness lent,
Over high breezy hills, and meadow land
Yellow with flowers, the wild procession went,
Till, rolling down its wooded banks between,
A broad, clear mountain stream, the Merrimack was seen.

The hunter leaning on his bow un-drawn,
The fisher lounging on the pebbled shores,
Squaws in the clearing dropping the seed-corn,
Young children peering through the wigwam doors,
Saw with delight, surrounded by her train
Of painted Saugus braves, their Weetamoo again.

VI. AT PENNACOOK.

THE hills are dearest which our child-
ish feet
Have climbed the earliest; and the streams most sweet
Are ever those at which our young lips drank,
Stooped to their waters o'er the grassy bank :

Midst the cold dreary sea-watch,
Home's hearth-light
Shines round the helmsman plunging through the night;

And still, with inward eye, the traveller sees
In close, dark, stranger streets his native trees.

The home-sick dreamer's brow is nightly fanned
By breezes whispering of his native land,
And on the stranger's dim and dying eye
The soft, sweet pictures of his childhood lie.

Joy then for Weetamoo, to sit one more
A child upon her father's wigwam floor!
Once more with her old fondness to be-
guile
From his cold eye the strange light of a smile.

The long bright days of summer swiftly passed,
The dry leaves whirled in autumn's rising blast,
And evening cloud and whitening sun-
rise rime
Told of the coming of the winter-time.

But vainly looked, the while, young Weetamoo,
Down the dark river for her chief's canoe;
No dusky messenger from Saugus brought
The grateful tidings which the young wife sought.

At length a runner from her father sent,
To Winnepurkit's sea-cooled wigwam went:
"Eagle of Saugus,—in the woods the dove
Mourns for the shelter of thy wings of love."

But the dark chief of Saugus turned aside
In the grim anger of hard-hearted pride;
"I bore her as became a chieftain's daughter,
Up to her home beside the gliding wa-
ter.

" If now no more a mat for her is found
Of all which line her father's wigwam
round,
Let Pennacook call out his warrior train,
And send her back with wampum gifts
again."

The baffled runner turned upon his
track,
Bearing the words of Winnepurkit back.
" Dog of the Marsh," cried Penna-
cock, " no more
Shall child of mine sit on his wigwam
floor.

" Go, — let him seek some meaner
squaw to spread
The stolen bear-skin of his beggar's
bed:
Son of a fish-hawk! — let him dig his
clams
For some vile daughter of the Aga-
wams,

" Or coward Nipmucks! — may his
scalp dry black
In Mohawk smoke, before I send her
back."
He shook his clenched hand towards
the ocean wave,
While hoarse assent his listening coun-
cil gave.

Alas poor bride! — can thy grim sire
impart
His iron hardness to thy woman's
heart?
Or cold self-torturing pride like his
stone
For love denied and life's warm beauty
flown?

On Autumn's gray and mournful grave
the snow
Hung its white wreaths; with stifled
voice and low
The river crept, by one vast bridge
o'ercrossed,
Built by the hoar-locked artisan of
Frost.

And many a Moon in beauty newly
born
Pierced the red sunset with her silver
horn,

Or, from the east, across her azure field
Rolled the wide brightness of her full-
orb'd shield.

Yet Winnepurkit came not, — on the
mat
Of the scorned wife her dusky rival sat;
And he, the while, in Western woods
afar,
Urged the long chase, or trod the path
of war.

Dry up thy tears, young daughter of a
chief!
Waste not on him the sacredness of
grief;
Be the fierce spirit of thy sire thine
own,
His lips of scorning, and his heart of
stone.

What needs the warrior of a hundred
fights,
The storm-worn watcher through long
hunting nights,
Cold, crafty, proud of woman's weak
distress,
Her home-bound grief and pining lone-
liness?

VII. THE DEPARTURE.

THE wild March rains had fallen fast
and long
The snowy mountains of the North
among,
Making each vale a watercourse,—
each hill
Bright with the cascade of some new-
made rill.

Gnawed by the sunbeams, softened by
the rain,
Heaved underneath by the swollen
current's strain,
The ice-bridge yielded, and the Merri-
mack
Bore the huge ruin crashing down its
track.

On that strong turbid water, a small
boat
Guided by one weak hand was seen to
float,

Evil the fate which loosed it from the shore,
Too early voyager with too frail an oar!

Down the vexed centre of that rushing tide,
The thick huge ice-blocks threatening either side,
The foam-white rocks of Amoskeag in view,
With arrowy swiftness sped that light canoe.

The trapper, moistening his moose's meat
On the wet bank by Uncanoonuc's feet,
Saw the swift boat flash down the troubled stream—
Slept he, or waked he?—was it truth or dream?

The straining eye bent fearfully before,
The small hand clutching on the useless oar,
The bead-wrought blanket trailing o'er the water—
He knew them all—woe for the Sachem's daughter.

Sick and weary of her lonely life,
Heedless of peril the still faithful wife
Had left her mother's grave, her father's door,
To seek the wigwam of her chief once more.

Down the white rapids like a sere leaf whirled,
On the sharp rocks and piled-up ices hurled,
Empty and broken, circled the canoe
In the vexed pool below—but, where was Weetamoo?

VIII. SONG OF INDIAN WOMEN.

THE Dark eye has left us,
The Spring-bird has flown;
On the pathway of spirits
She wanders alone.
The song of the wood-dove has died on our shore,—

*Mat wonck konna-monee!*²⁶ — We hear it no more!

O, dark water Spirit!
We cast on thy wave
These furs which may never
Hang over her grave;
Bear down to the lost one the robes
that she wore,—
Mat wonck konna-monee!— We see her no more!

Of the strange land she walks in
No Powah has told:
It may burn with the sunshine,
Or freeze with the cold.
Let us give to our lost one the robes
that she wore,
Mat wonck konna-monee!— We see her no more!

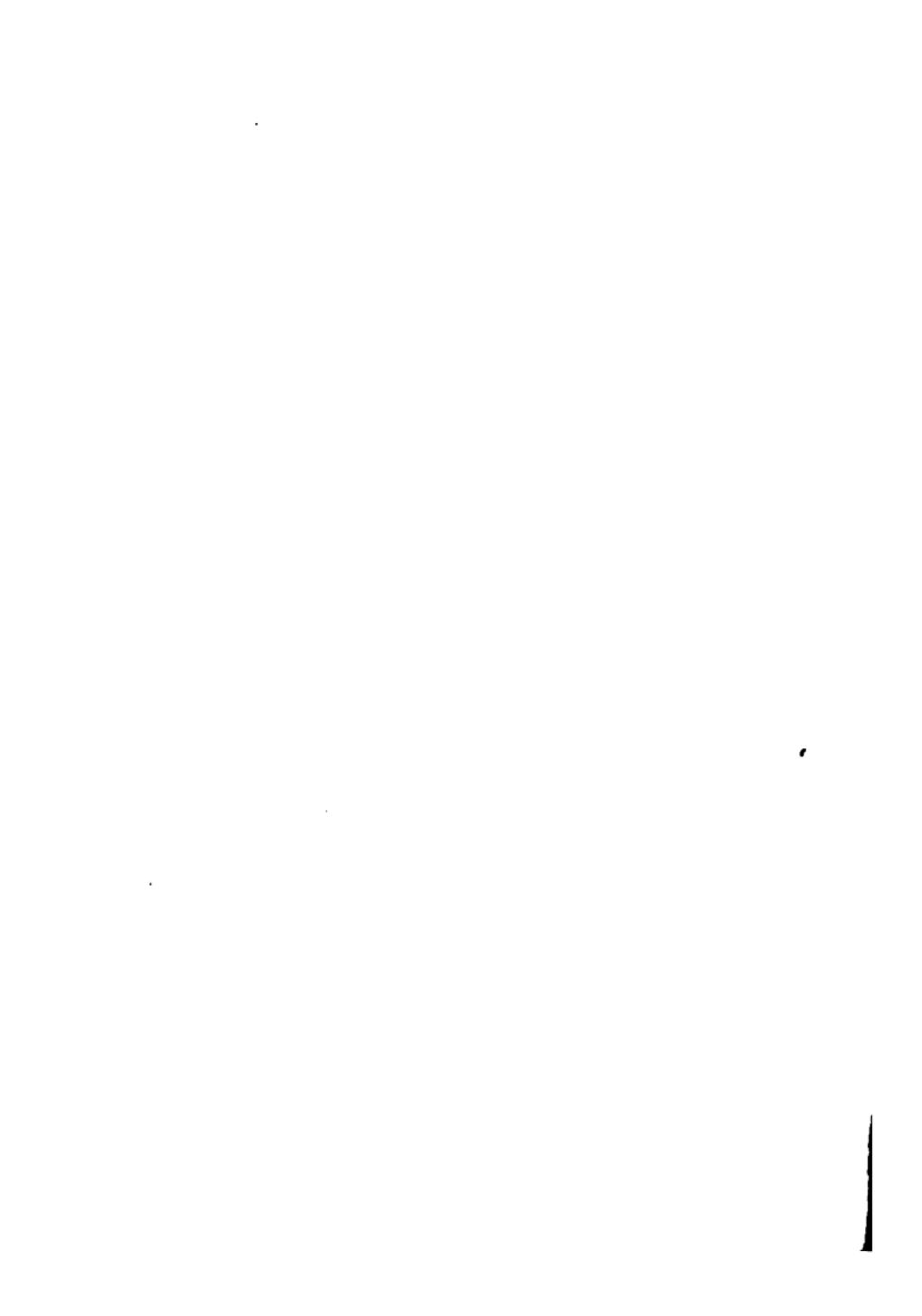
The path she is treading
Shall soon be our own;
Each gliding in shadow
Unseen and alone!—
In vain shall we call on the souls gone before,—
Mat wonck konna-monee!— They hear us no more!

O mighty Sowanna!²⁶
Thy gateway's unfold,
From thy wigwam of sunset
Lift curtains of gold!
Take home the poor Spirit whose journey is o'er,—
Mat wonck konna-monee!— We see her no more!

So sang the Children of the Leaves
beside
The broad, dark river's coldly-flowing tide,
Now low, now harsh, with sob-like pause and swell,
On the high wind their voices rose and fell.
Nature's wild music,— sounds of wind-swept trees,
The scream of birds, the wailing of the breeze,
The roar of waters, steady, deep, and strong,—
Mingled and murmured in that farewell song.

LEGENDARY.

1846.



LEGENDARY.

THE MERRIMACK.

"The Indians speak of a beautiful river,
far to the south, which they call Merrimack." — *SIEUR DE MONTS* : 1604.]

STREAM of my fathers! sweetly still
The sunset rays thy valley fill ;
Poured slantwise down the long defile,
Wave, wood, and spire beneath them
smile.

I see the winding Powow fold
The green hill in its belt of gold,
And following down its wavy line,
Its sparkling waters blend with thine.
There's not a tree upon thy side,
Nor rock, which thy returning tide
As yet hath left abrupt and stark
Above thy evening water-mark ;
No calm cove with its rocky hem,
No isle whose emerald swells begem
Thy broad, smooth current ; not a sail
Bowed to the freshening ocean gale ;
No small boat with its busy oars,
Nor gray wall sloping to thy shores ;
Nor farm-house with its maple shade,
Or rigid poplar colonnade,
But lies distinct and full in sight,
Beneath this gush of sunset light.
Centuries ago, that harbor-bar,
Stretching its length of foam afar,
And Salisbury's beach of shining sand,
And yonder island's wave-smoothed
strand,

Saw the adventurer's tiny sail
Flit, stooping from the eastern gale ;²⁷
And o'er these woods and waters broke
The cheer from Britain's hearts of oak,
As brightly on the voyager's eye,
Weary of forest, sea, and sky,
Breaking the dull continuous wood,
The Merrimack rolled down his flood ;
Mingling that clear pellucid brook,

Which channels vast Agioochook
When spring-time's sun and shower un-lock

The frozen fountains of the rock,
And more abundant waters given
From that pure lake, "The Smile of
Heaven,"²⁸
Tributes from vale and mountain-side,—
With ocean's dark, eternal tide !

On yonder rocky cape, which braves
The stormy challenge of the waves,
Midst tangled vine and dwarfish wood,
The hardy Anglo-Saxon stood,
Planting upon the topmost crag
The staff of England's battle-flag ;
And, while from out its heavy fold
Saint George's crimson cross unrolled,
Midst roll of drum and trumpet blare,
And weapons brandishing in air,
He gave to that lone promontory
The sweetest name in all his story ;²⁹
Of her, the flower of Islam's daughters,
Whose harems look on Stamboul's
waters,—

Who, when the chance of war had
bound
The Moslem chain his limbs around,
Wreathed o'er with silk that iron chain,
Soothed with her smiles his hours of
pain,

And fondly to her youthful slave
A dearer gift than freedom gave.

But look ! — the yellow light no more
Streams down on wave and verdant
shore :

And clearly on the calm air swells
The twilight voice of distant bells.
From Ocean's bosom, white and thin,
The mists come slowly rolling in ;
Hills, woods, the river's rocky rim,
Amidst the sea-like vapor swim,

While yonder lonely coast-light, set
Within its wave-washed minaret,
Half quenched, a beamless star and
pale,
Shines dimly through its cloudy veil !

Home of my fathers ! — I have stood
Where Hudson rolled his lordly flood :
Seen sunrise rest and sunset fade
Along his frowning Palisade ;
Looked down the Appalachian peak
On Juniata's silver streak ;
Have seen along his valley gleam
The Mohawk's softly winding stream ;
The level light of sunset shine
Through broad Potomac's hem of pine ;
And autumn's rainbow-tinted banner
Hang lightly o'er the Susquehanna ;
Yet, wheresoe'er his step might be,
Thy wandering child looked back to
thee !

Heard in his dreams thy river's sound
Of murmuring on its pebbly bound,
The unforgotten swell and roar
Of waves on thy familiar shore ;
And saw, amidst the curtained gloom
And quiet of his lonely room,
Thy sunset scenes before him pass ;
As, in Agrippa's magic glass,
The loved and lost arose to view,
Remembered groves in greenness grew,
Bathed still in childhood's morning
dew,
Along whose bowers of beauty swept
Whatever Memory's mourners wept,
Sweet faces, which the charnel kept,
Young, gentle eyes, which long had
slept ;
And while the gazer leaned to trace,
More near, some dear familiar face,
He wept to find the vision flown, —
A phantom and a dream alone !

THE NORSEMEN.³⁰

GIFT from the cold and silent Past !
A relic to the present cast ;
Left on the ever-changing strand
Of shifting and unstable sand,
Which wastes beneath the steady
chime
And beating of the waves of Time,

Who from its bed of primal rock
First wrench'd thy dark, unshapely
block ?
Whose hand, of curious skill untaught,
Thy rude and savage outline wrought ?

The waters of my native stream
Are glancing in the sun's warm beam :
From sail-urged keel and flashing oar
The circles widen to its shore ;
And cultured field and peopled town
Slope to its willowed margin down.
Yet, while this morning breeze is bring-
ing
The home-life sound of school-bells
ringing,
And rolling wheel, and rapid jar
Of the fire-winged and steedless car,
And voices from the wayside near
Come quick and blended on my ear,
A spell is in this old gray stone, —
My thoughts are with the Past alone !

A change ! — The steepled town no more
Stretches along the sail-thronged shore ;
Like palace-domes in sunset's cloud,
Fade sun-gilt spire and mansion proud ;
Spectrally rising where they stood,
I see the old, primeval wood :
Dark, shadow-like, on either hand
I see its solemn waste expand :
It climbs the green and cultured hill,
It arches o'er the valley's rill ;
And leans from cliff and crag, to throw
Its wild arms o'er the stream below.
Unchanged, alone, the same bright
river
Flows on, as it will flow forever !
I listen, and I hear the low
Soft ripple where its waters go ;
I hear behind the panther's cry,
The wild-bird's scream goes thrillingly,
And shyly on the river's brink
The deer is stooping down to drink.

But hark ! — from wood and rock flung
back,
What sound comes up the Merrimack ?
What sea-worn barks are those which
throw
The light spray from each rushing prow ?
Have they not in the North Sea's blast
Bowed to the waves the straining mast ?
Their frozen sails the low, pale sun
Of Thulé's night has shone upon ;

Flapped by the sea-wind's gusty sweep
Round icy drift, and headland steep.
Wild Jutland's wives and Lochlin's
daughters
Have watched them fading o'er the
waters,
Lessening through driving mist and
spray,
Like white-winged sea-birds on their
way !

Onward they glide, — and now I view
Their iron-armed and stalwart crew ;
Joy glistens in each wild blue eye,
Turned to green earth and summer sky :
Each broad, seamed breast has cast aside
Its cumbering vest of shaggy hide ;
Bared to the sun and soft warm air,
Streams back the Norsemen's yellow
hair.

I see the gleam of axe and spear,
The sound of smitten shields I hear,
Keeping a harsh and fitting time
To Saga's chant, and Runic rhyme ;
Such lays as Zetland's Scald has sung,
His gray and naked isles among ;
Or muttered low at midnight hour
Round Odin's mossy stone of power.
The wolf beneath the Arctic moon
Has answered to that startling rune ;
The Gael has heard its stormy swell,
The light Frank knows its summons
well ;

Iona's sable-stoled Culdee
Has heard it sounding o'er the sea,
And swept, with hoary beard and hair,
His altar's foot in trembling prayer !

'T is past, — the 'wilderling vision dies
In darkness on my dreaming eyes !

The forest vanishes in air, —
Hill-slope and vale lie starkly bare ;
I hear the common tread of men,
And hum of work-day life again :
The mystic relic seems alone
A broken mass of common stone ;
And if it be the chiselled limb
Of Berserker or idol grim, —
A fragment of Valhalla's Thor,
The stormy Viking's god of War,
Or Praga of the Runic lay,
Or love-awakening Siona,
I know not, — for no graven line,
Nor Druid mark, nor Runic sign,
Is left me here, by which to trace
Its name, or origin, or place.
Yet, for this vision of the Past,
This glance upon its darkness cast,
My spirit bows in gratitude
Before the Giver of all good,
Who fashioned so the human mind,
That, from the waste of Time behind
A simple stone, or mound of earth,
Can summon the departed forth ;
Quicken the Past to life again, —
The Present lose in what hath been,
And in their primal freshness show
The buried forms of long ago.
As if a portion of that Thought
By which the Eternal will is wrought,
Whose impulse fills anew with breath
The frozen solitude of Death,
To mortal mind were sometimes lent,
To mortal musings sometimes sent,
To whisper — even when it seems
But Memory's fantasy of dreams —
Through the mind's waste of woe and
sin,
Of an immortal origin !

CASSANDRA SOUTHWICK.

1658.

To the God of all sure mercies let my blessing rise to-day,
From the scoffer and the cruel He hath plucked the spoil away, —
Yea, He who cooled the furnace around the faithful three,
And tamed the Chaldean lions, hath set His handmaid free !

Last night I saw the sunset melt through my prison bars,
Last night across my damp earth-floor fell the pale gleam of stars ;
In the coldness and the darkness all through the long night-time,
My grated casement whitened with autumn's early rime.

Alone, in that dark sorrow, hour after hour crept by ;
 Star after star looked palely in and sank adown the sky ;
 No sound amid night's stillness, save that which seemed to be
 The dull and heavy beating of the pulses of the sea ;

All night I sat unsleeping, for I knew that on the morrow
 The ruler and the cruel priest would mock me in my sorrow,
 Dragged to their place of market, and bargained for and sold,
 Like a lamb before the shambles, like a heifer from the fold !

O, the weakness of the flesh was there, — the shrinking and the shame ;
 And the low voice of the Tempter like whispers to me came :
 " Why sit'st thou thus forlornly ! " the wicked murmur said,
 " Damp walls thy bower of beauty, cold earth thy maiden bed ?

" Where be the smiling faces, and voices soft and sweet,
 Seen in thy father's dwelling, heard in the pleasant street ?
 Where be the youths whose glances, the summer Sabbath through,
 Turned tenderly and timidly unto thy father's pew ?

" Why sit'st thou here, Cassandra ? — Bethink thee with what mirth
 Thy happy schoolmates gather around the warm bright hearth ;
 How the crimson shadows tremble on foreheads white and fair,
 On eyes of merry girlhood, half hid in golden hair.

" Not for thee the hearth-fire brightens, not for thee kind words are spoken
 Not for thee the nuts of Wenham woods by laughing boys are broken,
 No first-fruits of the orchard within thy lap are laid,
 For thee no flowers of autumn the youthful hunters braid.

" O, weak, deluded maiden ! — by crazy fancies led,
 With wild and raving railers an evil path to tread ;
 To leave a wholesome worship, and teaching pure and sound ;
 And mate with maniac women, loose-haired and sackcloth bound.

" Mad scoffers of the priesthood, who mock at things divine,
 Who rail against the pulpit, and holy bread and wine ;
 Sore from their cart-tail scourgings, and from the pillory lame,
 Rejoicing in their wretchedness, and glorying in their shame.

" And what a fate awaits thee ? — a sadly toiling slave,
 Dragging the slowly lengthening chain of bondage to the grave !
 Think of thy woman's nature, subdued in hopeless thrall,
 The easy prey of any, the scoff and scorn of all ! "

O, ever as the Tempter spoke, and feeble Nature's fears
 Wrung drop by drop the scalding flow of unavailing tears,
 I wrestled down the evil thoughts, and strove in silent prayer,
 To feel, O Helper of the weak ! that Thou indeed wert there !

I thought of Paul and Silas, within Philippi's cell,
 And how from Peter's sleeping limbs the prison-shackles fell,
 Till I seemed to hear the trailing of an angel's robe of white,
 And to feel a blessed presence invisible to sight.

Bless the Lord for all his mercies ! — for the peace and love I felt,
 Like dew of Hermon's holy hill, upon my spirit mek ;
 When, "Get behind me, Satan !" was the language of my heart,
 And I felt the Evil Tempter with all his doubts depart.

Slow broke the gray cold morning : again the sunshine fell,
 Flecked with the shade of bar and grate within my lonely cell ;
 The hoar-frost melted on the wall, and upward from the street
 Came careless laugh and idle word, and tread of passing feet.

At length the heavy bolts fell back, my door was open cast,
 And slowly at the sheriff's side, up the long street I passed ;
 I heard the murmur round me, and felt, but dared not see,
 How, from every door and window, the people gazed on me.

And doubt and fear fell on me, shame burned upon my cheek,
 Swam earth and sky around me, my trembling limbs grew weak :
 "O Lord ! support thy handmaid ; and from her soul cast out
 The fear of man, which brings a snare, — the weakness and the doubt."

Then the dreary shadows scattered, like a cloud in morning's breeze,
 And a low deep voice within me seemed whispering words like these :
 "Though thy earth be as the iron, and thy heaven a brazen wall,
 Trust still His loving-kindness whose power is over all."

We paused at length, where at my feet the sunlit waters broke
 On glaring reach of shining beach, and shingly wall of rock ;
 The merchant-ships lay idly there, in hard clear lines on high,
 Tracing with rope and slender spar their network on the sky.

And there were ancient citizens, cloak-wrapped and grave and cold,
 And grim and stout sea-captains with faces bronzed and old,
 And on his horse, with Rawson, his cruel clerk at hand,
 Sat dark and haughty Endicott, the ruler of the land.

And poisoning with his evil words the ruler's ready ear,
 The priest leaned o'er his saddle, with laugh and scoff and jeer ;
 It stirred my soul, and from my lips the seal of silence broke,
 As if through woman's weakness a warning spirit spoke.

I cried, "The Lord rebuke thee, thou smiter of the meek,
 Thou robber of the righteous, thou trampler of the weak !
 Go light the dark, cold hearth-stones, — go turn the prison lock
 Of the poor hearts thou hast hunted, thou wolf amid the flock ! "

Dark lowered the brows of Endicott, and with a deeper red
 O'er Rawson's wine-empurpled cheek the flush of anger spread ;
 "Good people," quoth the white-lipped priest, "heed not her words so wild,
 Her Master speaks within her, — the Devil owns his child ! "

But gray heads shook, and young brows knit, the while the sheriff read
 That law the wicked rulers against the poor have made,
 Who to their house of Rimmon and idol priesthood bring
 No bended knee of worship, nor gainful offering.

Then to the stout sea-captains the sheriff, turning, said, —
 " Which of ye, worthy seamen, will take this Quaker maid?
 In the Isle of fair Barbadoes, or on Virginia's shore,
 You may hold her at a higher price than Indian girl or Moor."

Grim and silent stood the captains; and when again he cried,
 " Speak out, my worthy seamen!" — no voice, no sign replied:
 But I felt a hard hand press my own, and kind words met my ear, —
 " God bless thee, and preserve thee, my gentle girl and dear!"

A weight seemed lifted from my heart, — a pitying friend was nigh,
 I felt it in his hard, rough hand, and saw it in his eye;
 And when again the sheriff spoke, that voice, so kind to me,
 Growled back its stormy answer like the roaring of the sea, —

" Pile my ship with bars of silver, — pack with coins of Spanish gold,
 From keel-piece up to deck-plank, the roomage of her hold,
 By the living God who made me! — I would sooner in your bay
 Sink ship and crew and cargo, than bear this child away!"

" Well answered, worthy captain, shame on their cruel laws!"
 Ran through the crowd in murmurs loud the people's just applause.
 " Like the herdsman of Tekoa, in Israel of old,
 Shall we see the poor and righteous again for silver sold?"

I looked on haughty Endicott; with weapon half-way drawn,
 Swept round the throng his lion glare of bitter hate and scorn;
 Fiercely he drew his bridle-rein, and turned in silence back,
 And sneering priest and baffled clerk rode murmuring in his track.

Hard after them the sheriff looked, in bitterness of soul;
 Thrice smote his staff upon the ground, and crushed his parchment roll.
 " Good friends," he said, " since both have fled, the ruler and the priest,
 Judge ye, if from their further work I be not well released."

Loud was the cheer which, full and clear, swept round the silent bay,
 As, with kind words and kinder looks, he bade me go my way;
 For He who turns the courses of the streamlet of the glen,
 And the river of great waters, had turned the hearts of men.

O, at that hour the very earth seemed changed beneath my eye,
 A holier wonder round me rose the blue walls of the sky,
 A lovelier light on rock and hill, and stream and woodland lay,
 And softer lapsed on sunnier sands the waters of the bay.

Thanksgiving to the Lord of life! — to Him all praises be,
 Who from the hands of evil men hath set his handmaid free;
 All praise to Him before whose power the mighty are afraid,
 Who takes the crafty in the snare, which for the poor is laid!

Sing, O my soul, rejoicingly, on evening's twilight calm
 Uplift the loud thanksgiving, — pour forth the grateful psalm;
 Let all dear hearts with me rejoice, as did the saints of old,
 When of the Lord's good angel the rescued Peter told.

And weep and howl, ye evil priests and mighty men of wrong,
The Lord shall smite the proud, and lay his hand upon the strong.
Woe to the wicked rulers in his avenging hour!
Woe to the wolves who seek the flocks to raven and devour!

But let the humble ones arise, — the poor in heart be glad,
And let the mourning ones again with robes of praise be clad,
For He who cooled the furnace, and smoothed the stormy wave,
And tamed the Chaldean lions, is mighty still to save!

FUNERAL TREE OF THE SOKOKIS.

1756.

AROUND Sebago's lonely lake
There lingers not a breeze to break
The mirror which its waters make.

The solemn pines along its shore,
The firs which hang its gray rocks o'er,
Are painted on its glassy floor.

The sun looks o'er, with hazy eye,
The snowy mountain-tops which lie
Piled coldly up against the sky.

Dazzling and white! save where the
bleak,
Wild winds have bared some splinter-
ing peak,
Or snow-slide left its dusky streak.

Yet green are Saco's banks below,
And belts of spruce and cedar show,
Dark fringing round those cones of
snow.

The earth hath felt the breath of spring,
Though yet on her deliverer's wing
The lingering frosts of winter cling.

Fresh grasses fringe the meadow-
brooks,
And mildly from its sunny nooks
The blue eye of the violet looks.

And odors from the springing grass,
The sweet birch and the sassafras,
Upon the scarce-felt breezes pass.

Her tokens of renewing care
Hath Nature scattered everywhere,
In bud and flower, and warmer air.

But in their hour of bitterness,
What reck the broken Sokokis,
Beside their slaughtered chief, of this?

The turf's red stain is yet undried, —
Scarce have the death-shot echoes died
Along Sebago's wooded side :

And silent now the hunters stand,
Grouped darkly, where a swell of land
Slopes upward from the lake's white
sand.

Fire and the axe have swept it bare,
Save one lone beech, unclosing there
Its light leaves in the vernal air.

With grave, cold looks, all sternly mute,
They break the damp turf at its foot,
And bare its coiled and twisted root.

They heave the stubborn trunk aside,
The firm roots from the earth divide, —
The rent beneath yawns dark and wide.

And there the fallen chief is laid,
In tasselled garbs of skins arrayed,
And girded with his wampum-braid.

The silver cross he loved is pressed
Beneath the heavy arms, which rest
Upon his scarred and naked breast.

"T is done : the roots are backward sent,
The beechen-tree stands up unbent, —
The Indian's fitting monument !

When of that sleeper's broken race
Their green and pleasant dwelling-place
Which knew them once, retains no
trace ;

O, long may sunset's light be shed
As now upon that beech's head,—
A green memorial of the dead !

There shall his fitting requiem be,
In northern winds, that, cold and free,
Howl nightly in that funeral tree.

To their wild wail the waves which
break
Forever round that lonely lake
A solemn undertone shall make !

And who shall deem the spot unblest,
Where Nature's younger children rest,
Lulled on their sorrowing mother's
breast?

Deem ye that mother loveth less
These bronzed forms of the wilderness
She foldeth in her long caress ?

As sweet o'er them her wild-flowers
blow,
As if with fairer hair and brow
The blue-eyed Saxon slept below.

What though the places of their rest
No priestly knee hath ever pressed,—
No funeral rite nor prayer hath blessed?

What though the bigot's ban be there,
And thoughts of wailing and despair,
And cursing in the place of prayer !

Yet Heaven hath angels watching round
The Indian's lowliest forest-mound,—
And they have made it holy ground.

There ceases man's frail judgment ;
all
His powerless bolts of cursing fall
Unheeded on that grassy pall.

O, peeled, and hunted, and reviled,
Sleep on, dark tenant of the wild !
Great Nature owns her simple child !

And Nature's God, to whom alone
The secret of the heart is known,—
The hidden language traced thereon ;

Who from its many cumberings
Of form and creed, and outward things,
To light the naked spirit brings ;

Not with our partial eye shall scan,
Not with our pride and scorn shall ban,
The spirit of our brother man !

ST. JOHN.

1647.

" To the winds give our banner !
Bear homeward again ! "
Cried the Lord of Acadia,
Cried Charles of Estienne ;
From the prow of his shallop
He gazed, as the sun,
From its bed in the ocean,
Streamed up the St. John.

O'er the blue western waters
That shallop had passed,
Where the mists of Penobscot
Clung damp on her mast.
St. Saviour had looked
On the heretic sail,
As the songs of the Huguenot
Rose on the gale.

The pale, ghostly fathers
Remembered her well,
And had cursed her while passing
With taper and bell,
But the men of Monhegan,
Of Papists abhorred,
Had welcomed and feasted
The heretic Lord.

They had loaded his shallop
With dun-fish and ball,
With stores for his larder,
And steel for his wall.
Pemequid, from her bastions
And turrets of stone,
Had welcomed his coming
With banner and gun.

And the prayers of the elders
Had followed his way,
As homeward he glided,
Down Pentecost Bay.
O, well sped La Tour !
For, in peril and pain,
His lady kept watch,
For his coming again.

O'er the Isle of the Pheasant
 The morning sun shone,
 On the plane-trees which shaded
 The shores of St. John.
 "Now, why from yon battlements
 Speaks not my love ?
 Why waves there no banner
 My fortress above ?"

Dark and wild, from his deck
 St. Estienne gazed about,
 On fire-wasted dwellings,
 And silent redoubt ;
 From the low, shattered walls
 Which the flame had o'errun,
 There floated no banner,
 There thundered no gun !

But beneath the low arch
 Of its doorway there stood
 A pale priest of Rome,
 In his cloak and his hood.
 With the bound of a lion,
 La Tour sprang to land,
 On the throat of the Papist
 He fastened his hand.

"Speak, son of the Woman
 Of scarlet and sin !
 What wolf has been prowling
 My castle within ?"
 From the grasp of the soldier
 The Jesuit broke,
 Half in scorn, half in sorrow,
 He smiled as he spoke :

"No wolf, Lord of Estienne,
 Has ravaged thy hall,
 But thy red-handed rival,
 With fire, steel, and ball !
 On an errand of mercy
 I hitherward came,
 While the walls of thy castle
 Yet spouted with flame.

"Pentagoet's dark vessels
 Were moored in the bay,
 Grim sea-lions, roaring
 Aloud for their prey."
 "But what of my lady ?"
 Cried Charles of Estienne :
 "On the shot-crumbled turret
 Thy lady was seen :

"Half-veiled in the smoke-cloud,
 Her hand grasped thy pennon,
 While her dark tresses swayed
 In the hot breath of cannon !
 But woe to the heretic,
 Evermore woe !
 When the son of the church
 And the cross is his foe !

"In the track of the shell,
 In the path of the ball,
 Pentagoet swept over
 The breach of the wall !
 Steel to steel, gun to gun,
 One moment, — and then
 Alone stood the victor,
 Alone with his men !

"Of its sturdy defenders,
 Thy lady alone
 Saw the cross-blazoned banner
 Float over St. John."
 "Let the dastard look to it !"
 Cried fiery Estienne,
 "Were D'Aulney King Louis,
 I'd free her again !"

"Alas for thy lady !
 No service from thee
 Is needed by her
 Whom the Lord hath set free :
 Nine days, in stern silence,
 Her thraldom she bore,
 But the tenth morning came,
 And Death opened her door !"

As if suddenly smitten
 La Tour staggered back ;
 His hand grasped his sword-hilt,
 His forehead grew black.
 He sprang on the deck
 Of his shallop again.
 "We cruise now for vengeance !
 Give way ! " cried Estienne.

"Massachusetts shall hear
 Of the Huguenot's wrong,
 And from island and creekside
 Her fishers shall throng !
 Pentagoet shall rue
 What his Papists have done,
 When his palisades echo
 The Puritan's gun ! "

O, the loveliest of heavens
 Hung tenderly o'er him,
 There were waves in the sunshine,
 And green isles before him :
 But a pale hand was beckoning
 The Huguenot on ;
 And in blackness and ashes
 Behind was St. John !

PENTUCKET.

1708.

How sweetly on the wood-girt town
 The mellow light of sunset shone !
 Each small, bright lake, whose waters
 still
 Mirror the forest and the hill,
 Reflected from its waveless breast
 The beauty of a cloudless west,
 Glorious as if a glimpse were given
 Within the western gates of heaven,
 Left, by the spirit of the star
 Of sunset's holy hour, ajar !

Beside the river's tranquil flood
 The dark and low-walled dwellings
 stood,
 Where many a rood of open land
 Stretched up and down on either hand,
 With corn-leaves waving freshly green
 The thick and blackened stumps be-
 tween.
 Behind, unbroken, deep and dread,
 The wild, untravelled forest spread,
 Back to those mountains, white and
 cold,
 Of which the Indian trapper told,
 Upon whose summits never yet
 Was mortal foot in safety set.

Quiet and calm, without a fear
 Of danger darkly lurking near,
 The weary laborer left his plough, —
 The milkmaid caroled by her cow, —
 From cottage door and household hear'n
 Rose songs of praise, or tones of mirth.
 At length the murmur died away,
 And silence on that village lay, —
 So slept Pompeii, tower and hall,
 Ere the quick earthquake swallowed all,
 Undreaming of the fiery fate
 Which made its dwellings desolate !

Hours passed away. By moonlight sped
 The Merrimack along his bed.
 Bathed in the pallid lustre, stood
 Dark cottage-wall and rock and wood,
 Silent, beneath that tranquil beam,
 As the hushed grouping of a dream.
 Yet on the still air crept a sound, —
 No bark of fox, nor rabbit's bound,
 Nor stir of wings, nor waters flowing,
 Nor leaves in midnight breezes blow-
 ing.

Was that the tread of many feet,
 Which downward from the hillside beat?
 What forms were those which darkly
 stood
 Just on the margin of the wood? —
 Charred tree-stumps in the moonlight
 dim,
 Or paling rude, or leafless limb?
 No, — through the trees fierce eyeballs
 glowed
 Dark human forms in moonshine
 showed,
 Wild from their native wilderness,
 With painted limbs and battle-dress !

A yell the dead might wake to hear
 Swelled on the night air, far and clear, —
 Then smote the Indian tomahawk
 On crashing door and shattering lock, —
 Then rang the rifle-shot, — and then
 The shrill death-scream of stricken
 men, —
 Sank the red axe in woman's brain,
 And childhood's cry arose in vain, —
 Bursting through roof and window
 came,
 Red, fast, and fierce, the kindled flame ;
 And blended fire and moonlight glared
 On still dead men and weapons bared.

The morning sun looked brightly
 through
 The river willows, wet with dew.
 No sound of combat filled the air, —
 No shout was heard, — nor gunshot
 there :
 Yet still the thick and sullen smoke
 From smouldering ruins slowly broke ;
 And on the greensward many a stain,
 And, here and there, the mangled slain,
 Told how that midnight bolt had sped.
 Pentucket, on thy fated head !

Even now the villager can tell
 Where Rolfe beside his hearthstone fell,
 Still show the door of wasting oak,
 Through which the fatal death-shot
 broke,
 And point the curious stranger where
 De Rouville's corpse lay grim and bare,—
 Whose hideous head, in death still
 feared,
 Bore not a trace of hair or beard,—
 And still, within the churchyard ground,
 Heaves darkly up the ancient mound,
 Whose grass-grown surface overlies
 The victims of that sacrifice.

THE FAMILIST'S HYMN.

FATHER ! to thy suffering poor
 Strength and grace and faith impart,
 And with thy own love restore
 Comfort to the broken heart !
 O the failing ones confirm
 With a holier strength of zeal !—
 Give thou not the feeble worm
 Helpless to the spoiler's heel !

Father ! for thy holy sake
 We are spoiled and hunted thus ;
 Joyful, for thy truth we take
 Bonds and burthens unto us :
 Poor, and weak, and robbed of all,
 Weary with our daily task,
 That thy truth may never fall
 Through our weakness, Lord, we ask.

Round our fired and wasted homes
 Flits the forest-bird unscared,
 And at noon the wild beast comes
 Where our frugal meal was shared ;
 For the song of praises there
 Shrieks the crow the livelong day ;
 For the sound of evening prayer
 Howls the evil beast of prey !

Sweet the songs we loved to sing
 Underneath thy holy sky, —
 Words and tones that used to bring
 Tears of joy in every eye, —
 Dear the wrestling hours of prayer,
 When we gathered knee to knee,
 Blameless youth and hoary hair,
 Bowed, O God, alone to thee.

As thine early children, Lord,
 Shared their wealth and daily bread,
 Even so, with one accord,
 We, in love, each other fed.
 Not with us the miser's hoard,
 Not with us his grasping hand ;
 Equal round a common board,
 Drew our meek and brother band !

Safe our quiet Eden lay
 When the war-whoop stirred the land
 And the Indian turned away
 From our home his bloody hand.
 Well that forest-ranger saw,
 That the burthen and the curse
 Of the white man's cruel law
 Rested also upon us.

Torn apart, and driven forth
 To our toiling hard and long,
 Father ! from the dust of earth
 Lift we still our grateful song !
 Grateful, — that in bonds we share
 In thy love which maketh free ;
 Joyful, — that the wrongs we bear,
 Draw us nearer, Lord, to thee !

Grateful ! — that where'er we toil, —
 By Wachuset's wooded side,
 On Nantucket's sea-worn isle,
 Or by wild Neponset's tide, —
 Still, in spirit, we are near,
 And our evening hymns, which rise
 Separate and discordant here,
 Meet and mingle in the skies !

Let the scoffer scorn and mock,
 Let the proud and evil priest
 Rob the needy of his flock,
 For his wine-cup and his feast, —
 Redden not thy bolts in store
 Through the blackness of thy skies ?
 For the sighing of the poor
 Wilt Thou not, at length, arise ?

Worn and wasted, oh ! how long
 Shall thy trodden poor complain ?
 In thy name they bear the wrong,
 In thy cause the bonds of pain !
 Melt oppression's heart of steel,
 Let the haughty priesthood see,
 And their blinded followers feel,
 That in us they mock a Thee !

In thy time, O Lord of hosts,
 Stretch abroad that hand to save
 Which of old, on Egypt's coasts,
 Smote apart the Red Sea's wave !
 Lead us from this evil land,
 From the spoiler set us free,
 And once more our gathered band,
 Heart to heart, shall worship thee !

THE FOUNTAIN.

TRAVELLER ! on thy journey toiling
 By the swift Powow,
 With the summer sunshine falling
 On thy heated brow,
 Listen, while all else is still,
 To the brooklet from the hill.

Wild and sweet the flowers are blowing
 By that streamlet's side,
 And a greener verdure showing
 Where its waters glide, —
 Down the hill-slope murmuring on,
 Over root and mossy stone.

Where yon oak his broad arms flingeth
 O'er the sloping hill,
 Beautiful and freshly springeth
 That soft-flowing rill,
 Through its dark roots wreathed and
 bare,
 Gushing up to sun and air.

Brighter waters sparkled never
 In that magic well,
 Of whose gift of life forever
 Ancient legends tell, —
 In the lonely desert wasted,
 And by mortal lip untasted.

Waters which the proud Castilian ¹¹
 Sought with longing eyes,
 Underneath the bright pavilion
 Of the Indian skies ;
 Where his forest pathway lay
 Through the blooms of Florida.

Years ago a lonely stranger,
 With the dusky brow
 Of the outcast forest-ranger,
 Crossed the swift Powow :
 And betook him to the rill
 And the oak upon the hill.

O'er his face of moody sadness
 For an instant shone
 Something like a gleam of gladness,
 As he stooped him down
 To the fountain's grassy side,
 And his eager thirst supplied.

With the oak its shadow throwing
 O'er his mossy seat,
 And the cool, sweet waters flowing
 Softly at his feet,
 Closely by the fountain's rim
 That lone Indian seated him.

Autumn's earliest frost had given
 To the woods below
 Hues of beauty, such as heaven
 Lendeth to its bow ;
 And the soft breeze from the west
 Scarcely broke their dreamy rest.

Far behind was Ocean striving
 With his chains of sand ;
 Southward, sunny glimpses giving,
 'Twixt the swells of land,
 Of its calm and silvery track,
 Rolled the tranquil Merrimack.

Over village, wood, and meadow
 Gazed that stranger man,
 Sadly, till the twilight shadow
 Over all things ran,
 Save where spire and westward pane
 Flashed the sunset back again.

Gazing thus upon the dwelling
 Of his warrior sires,
 Where no lingering trace was telling
 Of their wigwam fires,
 Who the gloomy thoughts might know
 Of that wandering child of woe ?

Naked lay, in sunshine glowing,
 Hills that once had stood
 Down their sides the shadows throwing
 Of a mighty wood,
 Where the deer his covert kept,
 And the eagle's pinion swept !

Where the birch canoe had glided
 Down the swift Powow,
 Dark and gloomy bridges strided
 Those clear waters now ;
 And where once the beaver swam,
 Jarred the wheel and frowned the dam.

For the wood-bird's merry singing,
And the hunter's cheer,
Iron clang and hammer's ringing
Smote upon his ear ;
And the thick and sullen smoke
From the blackened forges broke.

Could it be his fathers ever
Loved to linger here ?
These bare hills, this conquered river, —
Could they hold them dear,
With their native loveliness
Tamed and tortured into this ?

Sadly, as the shades of even
Gathered o'er the hill,
While the western half of heaven
Blushed with sunset still,
From the fountain's mossy seat
Turned the Indian's weary feet.

Year on year hath flown forever,
But he came no more
To the hillside or the river
Where he came before.
But the villager can tell
Of that strange man's visit well.

And the merry children, laden
With their fruits or flowers, —
Roving boy and laughing maiden,
In their school-day hours,
Love the simple tale to tell
Of the Indian and his well.

THE EXILES.

1660.

The goodman sat beside his door
One sultry afternoon,
With his young wife singing at his side
An old and goodly tune.

A glimmer of heat was in the air :
The dark green woods were still ;
And the skirts of a heavy thunder-cloud
Hung over the western hill.

Black, thick, and vast arose that cloud
Above the wilderness,
As some dark world from upper air
Were scooping over this.

At times the solemn thunder pealed,
And all was still again,
Save a low murmur in the air
Of coming wind and rain.

Just as the first big rain-drop fell,
A weary stranger came,
And stood before the farmer's door,
With travel soiled and lame.

Sad seemed he, yet sustaining hope
Was in his quiet glance,
And peace, like autumn's moonlight,
Clothed
His tranquil countenance.

A look, like that his Master wore
In Pilate's council-hall :
It told of wrongs, — but of a love
Meekly forgiving all.

"Friend ! wilt thou give me shelter
here ?"

The stranger meekly said :
And, leaning on his oaken staff,
The goodman's features read.

"My life is hunted, — evil men
Are following in my track ;
The traces of the torturer's whip
Are on my aged back.

"And much, I fear, 't will peril thee
Within thy doors to take
A hunted seeker of the Truth,
Oppressed for conscience' sake."

O, kindly spoke the goodman's wife, —
"Come in, old man ! " quoth she, —
"We will not leave thee to the storm,
Whoever thou mayst be."

Then came the aged wanderer in,
And silent sat him down ;
While all within grew dark as night
Beneath the storm-cloud's frown.

But while the sudden lightning's blaze,
Filled every cottage nook,
And with the jarring thunder-roll
The loosened casements shook,

A heavy tramp of horses' feet
Came sounding up the lane,
And half a score of horse, or more
Came plunging through the rain.

"Now, Goodman Macey, ope thy door, —

We would not be house-breakers ;
A rueful deed thou 'st done this day,
In harboring banished Quakers."

Out looked the cautious goodman then,
With much of fear and awe,
For there, with broad wig drenched
with rain,
The parish priest he saw.

"Open thy door, thou wicked man,
And let thy pastor in,
And give God thanks, if forty stripes
Repay thy deadly sin."

"What seek ye?" quoth the good-
man, —
"The stranger is my guest ;
He is worn with toil and grievous
wrong, —
Pray let the old man rest."

"Now, out upon thee, canting knave !"
And strong hands shook the door,
"Believe me, Macey," quoth the
priest, —
"Thou 'lt rue thy conduct sore."

Then kindled Macey's eye of fire :
"No priest who walks the earth,
Shall pluck away the stranger-guest
Made welcome to my hearth."

Down from his cottage wall he caught
The matchlock, hotly tried
At Preston-pans and Marston-moor,
By fiery Ireton's side ;

Where Puritan, and Cavalier,
With shout and psalm contended ;
And Rupert's oath, and Cromwell's
prayer,
With battle-thunder blended.

Up rose the ancient stranger then :
"My spirit is not free
To bring the wrath and violence
Of evil men on thee :

"And for thyself, I pray forbear, —
Bethink thee of thy Lord,
Who healed again the smitten ear,
And sheathed his follower's sword.

"I go, as to the slaughter led :
Friends of the poor, farewell !"
Beneath his hand the oaken door,
Back on its hinges fell.

"Come forth, old graybeard, yea and
nay" ;
The reckless scoffers cried,
As to a horseman's saddle-bow
The old man's arms were tied.

And of his bondage hard and long
In Boston's crowded jail,
Where suffering woman's prayer was
heard,
With sickening childhood's wail,

It suits not with our tale to tell :
Those scenes have passed away, —
Let the dim shadows of the past
Brood o'er that evil day.

"Ho, sheriff!" quoth the ardent
priest, —
"Take Goodman Macey too ;
The sin of this day's heresy,
His back or purse shall rue."

"Now, goodwife, haste thee !" Macey
cried,
She caught his manly arm : —
Behind, the parson urged pursuit,
With outcry and alarm.

Ho ! speed the Maceys, neck or
naught, —
The river-course was near : —
The plashing on its pebbled shore
Was music to their ear.

A gray rock, tasselled o'er with birch,
Above the waters hung,
And at its base, with every wave,
A small light wherry swung.

A leap — they gain the boat — and there
The goodman yields his oar :
"Ill luck betide them all," — he
cried, —
"The laggards upon the shore."

Down through the crashing under-
wood,
The burly sheriff came : —

"Stand, Goodman Macey, — yield thyself;
Yield in the King's own name."

"Now out upon thy hangman's face!"
Said Macey answered then, —
"Whip *women*, on the village green,
But meddle not with *men*."

The priest came panting to the shore, —
His grave cocked hat was gone ;
Behind him, like some owl's nest, hung
His wig upon a thorn.

"Come back, — come back!" the parson cried,
"The church's curse beware."
"Curse, an' thou wilt," said Macey,
"but
Thy blessing prithee spare."

"Vile scoffer!" cried the baffled priest, —
"Thou 'lt yet the gallows see."
"Who's born to be hanged, will not be drowned,"

Quoth Macey, merrily :

"And so, sir sheriff and priest, good by!"
He bent him to his oar,
And the small boat glided quietly
From the twain upon the shore.

Now in the west, the heavy clouds
Scattered and fell asunder,
While feebler came the rush of rain,
And fainter growled the thunder.

And through the broken clouds, the sun
Looked out serene and warm,
Painting its holy symbol-light
Upon the passing storm.

O, beautiful! that rainbow span,
O'er dim Crane-neck was bended ; —
One bright foot touched the eastern hills,
And one with ocean blended.

By green Pentucket's southern slope
The small boat glided fast, —
The watchers of "the Block-house"
saw
The strangers as they passed.

That night a stalwart garrison
Sat shaking in their shoes,
To hear the dip of Indian oars, —
The glide of birch canoes.

The fisher-wives of Salisbury,
(The men were all away,)
Looked out to see the stranger oar
Upon their waters play.

Deer-Island's rocks and fir-trees threw
Their sunset-shadows o'er them,
And Newbury's spire and weathercock
Peered o'er the pines before them.

Around the Black Rocks, on their left,
The marsh lay broad and green ;
And on their right, with dwarf shrubs
crowned,
Plum Island's hills were seen.

With skilful hand and wary eye
The harbor-bar was crossed : —
A plaything of the restless wave,
The boat on ocean tossed.

The glory of the sunset heaven
On land and water lay, —
On the steep hills of Agawam,
On cape, and bluff, and bay.

They passed the gray rocks of Cape Ann,
And Gloucester's harbor-bar ;
The watch-fire of the garrison
Shone like a setting star.

How brightly broke the morning
On Massachusetts Bay !
Blue wave, and bright green island,
Rejoicing in the day.

On passed the bark in safety
Round isle and headland steep, —
No tempest broke above them,
No fog-cloud veiled the deep.

Far round the bleak and stormy Cape
The vent'rous Macey passed,
And on Nantucket's naked isle,
Drew up his boat at last.

And how, in log-built cabin,
They braved the rough sea-weather ;
And there, in peace and quietness,
Went down life's vale together :

How others drew around them,
And how their fishing sped,
Until to every wind of heaven
Nantucket's sails were spread;

How pale Want alternated
With Plenty's golden smile;
Behold, is it not written
In the annals of the isle?

And yet that isle remaineth
A refuge of the free,
As when true-hearted Macey
Beheld it from the sea.

Free as the winds that winnow
Her shrubless hills of sand,—
Free as the waves that batter
Along her yielding land.

Than hers, at duty's summons,
No loftier spirit stirs,—
Nor falls o'er human suffering
A readier tear than hers.

God bless the sea-beat island!—
And grant forevermore,
That charity and freedom dwell
As now upon her shore!

THE NEW WIFE AND THE OLD.

DARK the halls, and cold the feast,—
Gone the bridemaids, gone the priest:
All is over,— all is done,
Twain of yesterday are one!
Blooming girl and manhood gray,
Autumn in the arms of May!

Hushed within and hushed without,
Dancing feet and wrestlers' shout;
Dies the bonfire on the hill;
All is dark and all is still,
Save the starlight, save the breeze
Moaning through the graveyard trees;
And the great sea-waves below,
Pulse of the midnight beating slow.

From the brief dream of a bride
She hath wakened, at his side.
With half-uttered shriek and start,—
Veels she not his beating heart?

And the pressure of his arm,
And his breathing near and warm?

Lightly from the bridal bed
Springs that fair dishevelled head,
And a feeling, new, intense,
Half of shame, half innocence,
Maiden fear and wonder speaks
Through her lips and changing cheeks

From the oaken mantel glowing
Faintest light the lamp is throwing
On the mirror's antique mould,
High-backed chair, and wainscot old,
And, through faded curtains stealing
His dark sleeping face revealing.

Listless lies the strong man there,
Silver-streaked his careless hair:
Lips of love have left no trace
On that hard and haughty face;
And that forehead's knitted thought
Love's soft hand hath not unwrought

"Yet," she sighs, "he loves me well,
More than these calm lips will tell.
Stooping to my lowly state,
He hath made me rich and great,
And I bless him, though he be
Hard and stern to all save me!"

While she speaketh, falls the light
O'er her fingers small and white;
Gold and gem, and costly ring
Back the timid lustre fling,—
Love's selectest gifts, and rare,
His proud hand had fastened there.

Gratefully she marks the glow
From those tapering lines of snow;
Fondly o'er the sleeper bending
His black hair with golden blending,
In her soft and light caress,
Cheek and lip together press.

Ha! — that start of horror! — Why
That wild stare and wilder cry,
Full of terror, full of pain?
Is there madness in her brain?
Hark! that gasping, hoarse and low,
"Spare me, — spare me, — let me go!"

God have mercy! — Icy cold
Spectral hands her own enfold,

Drawing silently from them
Love's fair gifts of gold and gem,
"Waken I save me!" still as death
At her side he slumbereth.

Ring and bracelet all are gone,
And that ice-cold hand withdrawn;
But she hears a murmur low,
Full of sweetness, full of woe,
Half a sigh and half a moan:
"Fear not! give the dead her own!"

Ah! — the dead wife's voice she knows!
That cold hand, whose pressure froze,
Once in warmest life had borne
Gem and band her own hath worn.
"Wake thee! wake thee!" Lo, his eyes
Open with a dull surprise.

In his arms the strong man folds her,
Closer to his breast he holds her;
Trembling limbs his own are meeting,
And he feels her heart's quick beating:
"Nay, my dearest, why this fear?"
"Hush!" she saith, "the dead is here!"

"Nay, a dream, — an idle dream."
But before the lamp's pale gleam
Trembling! her hand she raises, —
There no more the diamond blazes,
Clasp of pearl, or ring of gold, —
"Ah!" she sighs, "her hand was cold!"

Broken words of cheer he saith,
But his dark lip quivereth,
And as o'er the past he thinketh,
From his young wife's arms he shrinketh;

Can those soft arms round him lie,
Underneath his dead wife's eye?

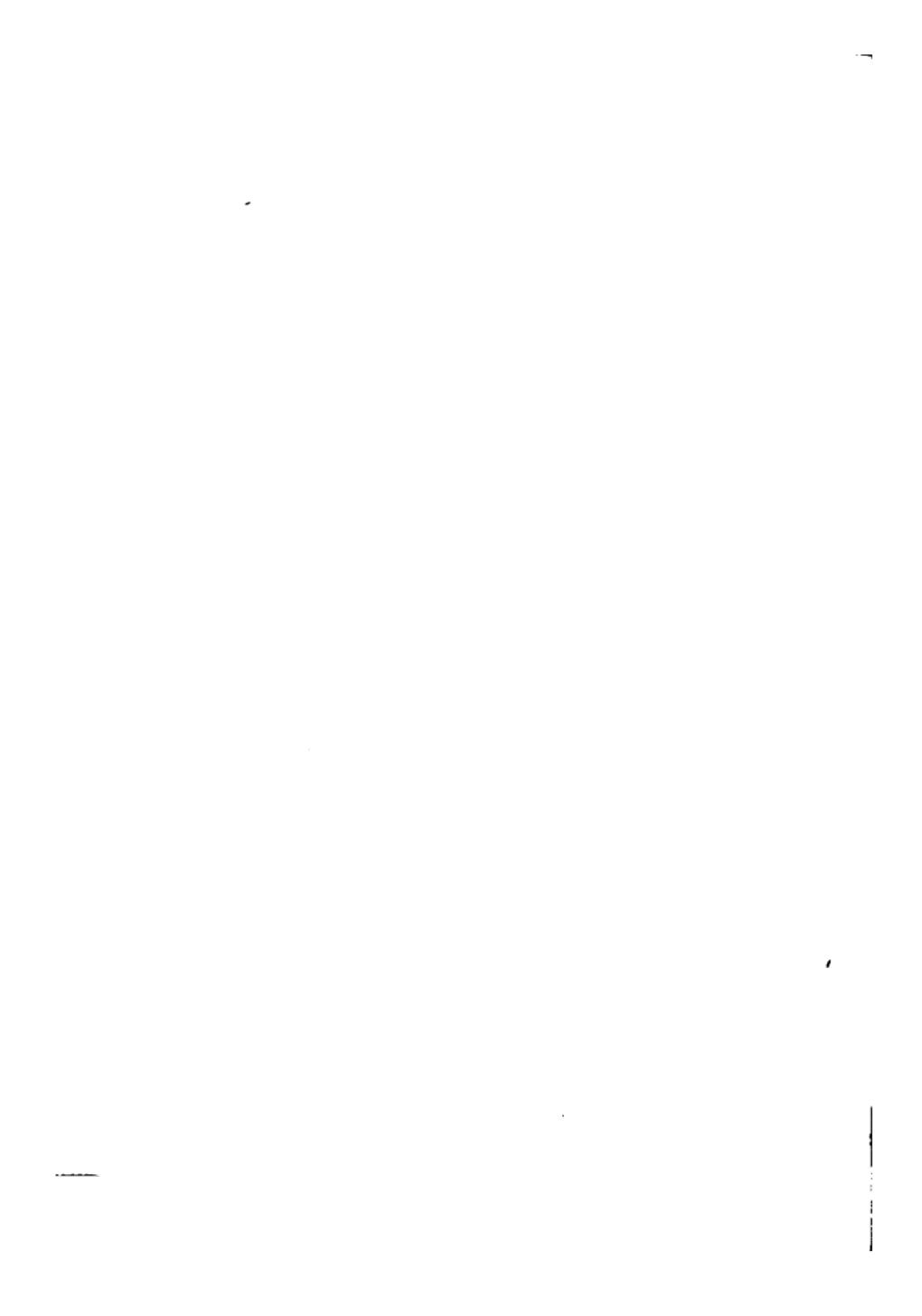
She her fair young head can rest
Soothed and childlike on his breast,
And in trustful innocence
Draw new strength and courage thence;
He, the proud man, feels within
But the cowardice of sin!

She can murmur in her thought
Simple prayers her mother taught,
And His blessed angels call,
Whose great love is over all;
He, alone, in prayerless pride,
Meets the dark Past at her side!

One, who living shrank with dread
From his look, or word, or tread,
Unto whom her early grave
Was as freedom to the slave,
Moves him at this midnight hour,
With the dead's unconscious power!

Ah, the dead, the unforget !
From their solemn homes of thought,
Where the cypress shadows blend
Darkly over foe and friend,
Or in love or sad rebuke,
Back upon the living look.

And the tenderest ones and weakest,
Who their wrongs have borne the meek-
est,
Lifting from those dark, still places,
Sweet and sad-remembered faces,
O'er the guilty hearts behind
An unwitting triumph find.



VOICES OF FREEDOM.

FROM 1833 TO 1848.



VOICES OF FREEDOM.

FROM 1833 TO 1848.

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE.²²

THE night. The tranquil moonlight
smile
With which Heaven dreams of Earth,
shed down
Its beauty on the Indian isle,—
On broad greenfield and white-walled
town;
And inland waste of rock and wood,
In searching sunshine, wild and rude,
Rose, mellowed through the silvergleam,
Soft as the landscape of a dream,
All motionless and dewy wet,
Tree, vine, and flower in shadow met:
The myrtle with its snowy bloom,
Crossing the nightshade's solemn
gloom,—
The white cecropia's silver rind
Relieved by deeper green behind,—
The orange with its fruit of gold,—
The lithe paullinia's verdant fold,—
The passion-flower, with symbol holy,
Twining its tendrils long and lowly,—
The rhebias dark, and cassia tall,
And proudly rising over all,
The kingly palm's imperial stem,
Crowned with its leafy diadem,
Star-like, beneath whose sombre shade,
The fiery-winged cucullo played!
Yes, — lovely was thine aspect, then,
Fair island of the Western Sea!
Lavish of beauty, even when
Thy brutes were happier than thy men,
For they, at least, were free!
Regardless of thy glorious clime,
Unmindful of thy soil of flowers,
The toiling negro sighed, that Time
No faster sped his hours.
For, by the dewy moonlight still,
He fed the weary-turning mill,

Or bent him in the chill morass,
To pluck the long and tangled grass,
And hear above his scar-worn back
The heavy slave-whip's frequent crack;
While in his heart one evil thought
In solitary madness wrought,
One baleful fire surviving still
The quenching of the immortal mind,
One sterner passion of his kind,
Which even fetters could not kill, —
The savage hope, to deal, ere long,
A vengeance bitterer than his wrong!
Hark to that cry! — long, loud, and shrill,
From field and forest, rock and hill,
Thrilling and horrible it rang,
Around, beneath, above: —
The wild beast from his cavern sprang,
The wild bird from her grove!
Nor fear, nor joy, nor agony
Were mingled in that midnight cry;
But like the lion's growl of wrath,
When falls that hunter in his path
Whose barbed arrow, deeply set,
Is rankling in his bosom yet,
It told of hate, full, deep, and strong,
Of vengeance kindling out of wrong;
It was as if the crimes of years —
The unrequited toil, the tears,
The shame and hate, which liken well
Earth's garden to the nether hell —
Had found in nature's self a tongue;
On which the gathered horror hung:
As if from cliff, and stream, and glen
Burst on the startled ears of men
That voice which rises unto God,
Solemn and stern, — the cry of blood!
It ceased, — and all was still once more,
Save ocean chafing on his shore,
The sighing of the wind between
The broad banana's leaves of green,

Or bough by restless plumage shook,
Or murmuring voice of mountain brook.

Brief was the silence. Once again
Pealed to the skies that frantic yell,
Glowed on the heavens a fiery stain,
And flashes rose and fell;
And painted on the blood-red sky,
Dark, naked arms were tossed on high;
And, round the white man's lordly hall,
Trod, fierce and free, *the brute he made;*

And those who crept along the wall,
And answered to his lightest call
With more than spaniel dread,—
The creatures of his lawless beck,—
Were trampling on his very neck!
And on the night-air, wild and clear,
Rose woman's shriek of more than fear;
For bloodied arms were round her thrown,
And dark cheeks pressed against her own!

Then, injured Afric! — for the shame
Of thy own daughters, vengeance came
Full on the scornful hearts of those,
Who mocked thee in thy nameless woes,
And to thy hapless children gave
One choice, — pollution or the grave!
Where then was he whose fiery zeal
Had taught the trampled heart to feel,
Until despair itself grew strong,
And vengeance fed its torch from wrong?
Now, when the thunderbolt is speeding;
Now, when oppression's heart is bleeding;
Now, when the latent curse of Time
Is raining down in fire and blood, —
That curse which, through long years
of crime,
Has gathered, drop by drop, its flood, —
Why strikes he not, the foremost one,
Where murder's sternest deeds are done?

He stood the aged palms beneath,
That shadowed o'er his humble door,
Listening, with half-suspended breath,
To the wild sounds of fear and death, —
Toussaint l'Ouverture!
What marvel that his heart beat high!

The blow for freedom had been given,
And blood had answered to the cry
Which Earth sent up to Heaven!
What marvel that a fierce delight
Smiled grimly o'er his brow of night, —
As groan and shout and bursting flame
Told where the midnight tempest came,
With blood and fire along its van,
And death behind! — he was a Man!

Yes, dark-souled chieftain! — if the light
Of mild Religion's heavenly ray
Unveiled not to thy mental sight

The lowlier and the purer way,
In which the Holy Sufferer trod,
Meekly amidst the sons of crime, —
That calm reliance upon God
For justice in his own good time, —
That gentleness to which belongs
Forgiveness for its many wrongs,
Even as the primal martyr, kneeling
For mercy on the evil-dealing, —
Let not the favored white man name
Thy stern appeal, with words of blame.
Has he not, with the light of heaven

Broadly around him, made the same?
Yea, on his thousand war-fields striven,
And gloried in his ghastly shame? —
Kneeling amidst his brother's blood,
To offer mockery unto God,
As if the High and Holy One
Could smile on deeds of murder done! —
As if a human sacrifice
Were purer in his Holy eyes,
Though offered up by Christian hands,
Than the foul rites of Pagan lands!

* * * * *

Sternly, amidst his household band,
His carbine grasped within his hand,
The white man stood, prepared and still,

Waiting the shock of maddened men,
Unchained, and fierce as tigers, when
The horn wind through their caverned hill.

And one was weeping in his sight, —
The sweetest flower of all the isle, —
The bride who seemed but yesternight
Love's fair embodied smile.
And, clinging to her trembling knee
Looked up the form of infancy,
With tearful glance in either face
The secret of its fear to trace.

"Ha ! stand or die !" The white man's eye

His steady musket gleamed along,
As a tall Negro hastened nigh,
With fearless step and strong.
"What, ho, Toussaint !" A moment more,

His shadow crossed the lighted floor.
"Away !" he shouted ; " fly with me, —
The white man's bark is on the sea ; —
Her sails must catch the seaward wind,
For sudden vengeance sweeps behind.
Our brethren from their graves have spoken,
The yoke is spurned, — the chain is broken ;
On all the hills our fires are glowing, —
Through all the vales red blood is flowing !

No more the mocking White shall rest
His foot upon the Negro's breast ;
No more, at morn or eve, shall drip
The warm blood from the driver's whip :
Yet, though Toussaint has vengeance sworn

For all the wrongs his race have borne, —
Though for each drop of Negro blood
The white man's veins shall pour a flood ;
Not all alone the sense of ill
Around his heart is lingering still,
Nor deeper can the white man feel
The generous warmth of grateful zeal.
Friends of the Negro ! fly with me, —
The path is open to the sea :
Away, for life ! — Hespoke, and pressed
The young child to his manly breast,
As, headlong, through the cracking cane,
Down swept the dark insurgent train, —
Drunken and grim, with shout and yell
Howled through the dark, like sounds
from hell.

Far out, in peace, the white man's sail
Swayed free before the sunrise gale.
Cloud-like that island hung afar,
Along the bright horizon's verge,
O'er which the curse of servile war
Rolled its red torrent, surge on surge :
And he — the Negro champion — where
In the fierce tumult struggled he ?
Go trace him by the fiery glare
Of dwellings in the midnight air, —
The yells of triumph and despair, —
The screams that crimson to the sea !

Sleep calmly in thy dungeon-tomb,
Beneath Besançon's alien sky,
Dark Haytien ! — for the time shall come,

Yea, even now is nigh, —
When, everywhere, thy name shall be
Redeemed from color's infamy ;
And men shall learn to speak of thee,
As one of earth's great spirits, born
In servitude, and nursed in scorn,
Casting aside the weary weight
And fetters of its low estate,
In that strong majesty of soul

Which knows no color, tongue, or clime, —

Which still hath spurned the base control

Of tyrants through all time !
Far other hands than mine may wreath
The laurel round thy brow of death,
And speak thy praise, as one whose word
A thousand fiery spirits stirred, —
Who crushed his foeman as a worm, —
Whose step on human hearts fell firm : — ss

Be mine the better task to find
A tribute for thy lofty mind,
Amidst whose gloomy vengeance shone
Some milder virtues all thine own, —
Some gleams of feeling pure and warm,
Like sunshine on a sky of storm, —
Proofs that the Negro's heart retains
Some nobleness amidst its chains, —
That kindness to the wronged is never
Without its excellent reward, —
Holy to human-kind, and ever
Acceptable to God.

THE SLAVE-SHIPS.³⁴

" That fatal, that perfidious bark,
Built I' the eclipse, and rigged with curses dark."

Milton's Lycidas.

" ALL ready ? " cried the captain ;
" Ay, ay ! " the seamen said ;
" Heave up the worthless lubbers, —
The dying and the dead." Up from the slave-ship's prison
Fierce, bearded heads were thrust :
" Now let the sharks look to it, —
Toss up the dead ones first ! "

Corpse after corpse came up, —
 Death had been busy there ;
 Where every blow is mercy,
 Why should the spoiler spare ?
 Corpse after corpse they cast
 Sullenly from the ship,
 Yet bloody with the traces
 Of fetter-link and whip.

Gloomily stood the captain,
 With his arms upon his breast,
 With his cold brow sternly knotted,
 And his iron lip compressed.
 "Are all the dead dogs over?" —
 Growled through that matted lip, —
 "The blind ones are no better,
 Let's lighten the good ship."

Hark ! from the ship's dark bosom,
 The very sounds of hell !
 The ringing clank of iron, —
 The maniac's short, sharp yell ! —
 The hoarse, low curse, throat-stifled, —
 The starving infant's moan, —
 The horror of a breaking heart
 Poured through a mother's groan.

Up from that loathsome prison
 The stricken blind ones came :
 Below, had all been darkness, —
 Above, was still the same.
 Yet the holy breath of heaven
 Was sweetly breathing there,
 And the heated brow of fever
 Cooled in the soft sea air.

"Overboard with them, shipmates!" —
 Cutlass and dirk were plied ;
 Fettered and blind, one after one,
 Plunged down the vessel's side.
 The sabre smote above, —
 Beneath, the lean shark lay,
 Waiting with wide and bloody jaw
 His quick and human prey.

God o' the earth ! what cries
 Rang upward unto thee?
 Voices of agony and blood,
 From ship-deck and from sea.
 The last dull plunge was heard, —
 The last wave caught its stain, —
 And the unsated shark looked up
 For human hearts in vain.

Red glowed the western waters, —
 The setting sun was there,
 Scattering alike on wave and cloud
 His fiery mesh of hair.
 Amidst a group in blindness,
 A solitary eye
 Gazed, from the burdened slaver's deck,
 Into that burning sky.

"A storm," spoke out the gazer,
 "Is gathering and at hand, —
 Curse on 't — I'd give my other eye
 For one firm rood of land."
 And then he laughed, — but only
 His echoed laugh replied, —
 For the blinded and the suffering
 Alone were at his side.

Night settled on the waters,
 And on a stormy heaven,
 While fiercely on that lone ship's track
 The thunder-gust was driven.
 "A sail ! — thank God, a sail ! "
 And as the helmsman spoke,
 Up through the stormy murmur
 A shout of gladness broke.

Down came the stranger vessel,
 Unheeding on her way,
 So near, that on the slaver's deck
 Fell off her driven spray.
 "Ho ! for the love of mercy, —
 We're perishing and blind ! "
 A wail of utter agony
 Came back upon the wind :

"Help us ! for we are stricken
 With blindness every one ;
 Ten days we've floated fearfully,
 Unnoting star or sun.
 Our ship's the slaver Leon, —
 We've but a score on board, —
 Our slaves are all gone over, —
 Help, — for the love of God ! "

On livid brows of agony
 The broad red lightning shone, —
 But the roar of wind and thunder
 Stifled the answering groan
 Wailed from the broken waters
 A last despairing cry,
 As, kindling in the stormy light,
 The stranger ship went by.

* * * * *

In the sunny Guadaloupe
A dark-hulled vessel lay, —
With a crew who noted never
The nightfall or the day.
The blossom of the orange
Was white by every stream,
And tropic leaf, and flower, and bird
Were in the warm sunbeam.

And the sky was bright as ever,
And the moonlight slept as well,
On the palm-trees by the hillside,
And the streamlet of the dell :
And the glances of the Creole
Were still as archly deep,
And her smiles as full as ever
Of passion and of sleep.

But vain were bird and blossom,
The green earth and the sky,
And the smile of human faces,
To the slaver's darkened eye ;
At the breaking of the morning,
At the star-lit evening time,
O'er a world of light and beauty
Fell the blackness of his crime.

STANZAS.

" The despotism which our fathers
could not bear in their native country is
expiring, and the sword of justice in her
reformed hands has applied its exterminat-
ing edge to slavery. Shall the United
States — the free United States, which
could not bear the bonds of a king — cradle
the bondage which a king is abolishing?
Shall a Republic be less free than a Mon-
archy? Shall we, in the vigor and buoy-
ancy of our manhood, be less energetic
in righteousness than a kingdom in its
age ? " — Dr. Follen's Address.

" Genius of America! — Spirit of our free
institutions! — where art thou? — How art
thou fallen, O Lucifer! son of the morning,
— how art thou fallen from Heaven! Hell
from beneath is moved for thee, to meet
thee at thy coming! — The kings of the
earth cry out to thee, Aha! Aha! — ART
THOU BECOME LIKE UNTO US!" — Speech
of Samuel J. May.

OUR fellow-countrymen in chains!
Slaves — in a land of light and law :
Slaves — crouching on the very plains
Where rolled the storm of Freedom's
war!

A groan from Eutaw's haunted wood, —
A wail where Camden's martyrs
fell, —
By every shrine of patriot blood,
From Moultrie's wall and Jasper's
well !

By storied hill and hallowed grot,
By mossy wood and marshy glen,
Whence rang of old the rifle-shot,
And hurrying shout of Marion's
men !

The groan of breaking hearts is there, —
The falling lash, — the fetter's clank !
Slaves, — *SLAVES* are breathing in that
air,
Which old De Kalb and Sumter
drank !

What, ho! — *our* countrymen in chains !
The whip on *woman's* shrinking
flesh !

Our soil yet reddening with the stains
Caught from her scourging, warm and
fresh !

What ! mothers from their children
riven !

What ! God's own image bought and
sold !

AMERICANS to market driven,
And bartered as the brute for gold !

Speak ! shall their agony of prayer
Come thrilling to our hearts in vain ?
To us whose fathers scorned to bear
The paltry *menace* of a chain ;
To us, whose boast is loud and long
Of holy Liberty and Light, —
Say, shall these writhing slaves of
Wrong,
Plead vainly for their plundered
Right?

What ! shall we send, with lavish
breath,
Our sympathies across the wave,
Where Manhood, on the field of death,
Strikes for his freedom or a grave ?
Shall prayers go up, and hymns be
sung
For Greece, the Moslem fetter spurn-
ing,
And millions hail with pen and tongue
Our light on all her altars burning ?

Shall Belgium feel, and gallant France,
By Vendome's pile and Schoenbrun's
wall,
And Poland, gasping on her lance,
The impulse of our cheering call?
And shall the SLAVE, beneath our eye,
Clank o'er *our* fields his hateful
chain?
And toss his fettered arms on high,
And groan for Freedom's gift, in vain?

O, say, shall Prussia's banner be
A refuge for the stricken slave?
And shall the Russian serf go free
By Baikal's lake and Neva's wave?
And shall the wintry-bosomed Dane
Relax the iron hand of pride,
And bid his bondmen cast the chain,
From fettered soul and limb, aside?

Shall every flap of England's flag
Proclaim that all around are free,
From "farthest Ind" to each blue crag
That beetles o'er the Western Sea?
And shall we scoff at Europe's kings,
When Freedom's fire is dim with us,
And round our country's altar clings
The damning shade of Slavery's
curse?

Go — let us ask of Constantine
To loose his grasp on Poland's throat;
And beg the lord of Mahmoud's line
To spare the struggling Suliote, —
Will not the scorching answer come
From turbaned Turk, and scornful
Russ:
"Go, loose your fettered slaves at home,
Then turn, and ask the like of us!"

Just God! and shall we calmly rest,
The Christian's scorn, — the hea-
then's mirth, —
Content to live the lingering jest
And by-word of a mocking Earth?
Shall our own glorious land retain
That curse which Europe scorns to
bear?
Shall our own brethren drag the chain
Which not even Russia's menials
wear?

Up, then, in Freedom's manly part,
From graybeard eld to fiery youth,

And on the nation's naked heart
Scatter the living coals of Truth!
Up, — while ye slumber, deeper yet
The shadow of our fame is growing!
Up, — while ye pause, our sun may set
In blood, around our altars flowing!

Oh! rouse ye, ere the storm comes
forth, —

The gathered wrath of God and
man, —

Like that which wasted Egypt's earth,
When hail and fire above it ran.
Hear ye no warnings in the air?
Feel ye no earthquake underneath?
Up, — up! why will ye slumber where
The sleeper only wakes in death?

Up now for Freedom! — not in strife
Like that your sterner fathers saw, —
The awful waste of human life, —
The glory and the guilt of war :
But break the chain, — the yoke remove,
And smite to earth Oppression's rod,
With those mild arms of Truth and
Love,
Made mighty through the living God!

Down let the shrine of Moloch sink,
And leave no traces where it stood ;
Nor longer let its idol drink
His daily cup of human blood ;
But rear another altar there,
To Truth and Love and Mercy given,
And Freedom's gift, and Freedom's
prayer,
Shall call an answer down from Heav-
en !

THE YANKEE GIRL.

SHE sings by her wheel at that low
cottage-door,
Which the long evening shadow is
stretching before,
With a music as sweet as the music
which seems
Breathed softly and faint in the ear of
our dreams !

How brilliant and mirthful the light of
her eye,
Like a star glancing out from the blue
of the sky !

And lightly and freely her dark tresses play
O'er a brow and a bosom as lovely as they !

Who comes in his pride to that low cottage-door, —
The haughty and rich to the humble and poor?
'T is the great Southern planter, — the master who waves His whip of dominion o'er hundreds of slaves.

"Nay, Ellen, — for shame ! Let those Yankee fools spin, Who would pass for our slaves with a change of their skin ; Let them toil as they will at the loom or the wheel, Too stupid for shame, and too vulgar to feel !

"But thou art too lovely and precious a gem To be bound to their burdens and sulled by them, — For shame, Ellen, shame, — cast thy bondage aside, And away to the South, as my blessing and pride.

"O, come where no winter thy footsteps can wrong, But where flowers are blossoming all the year long, Where the shade of the palm-tree is over my home, And the lemon and orange are white in their bloom !

"O, come to my home, where my servants shall all Depart at thy bidding and come at thy call ; They shall heed thee as mistress with trembling and awe, And each wish of thy heart shall be felt as a law."

O, could ye have seen her — that pride of our girl's — Arise and cast back the dark wealth of her curla,

With a scorn in her eye which the gazer could feel, And a glance like the sunshine that flashes on steel !

"Go back, haughty Southerner ! thy treasures of gold Are dim with the blood of the hearts thou hast sold ; Thy home may be lovely, but round it I hear The crack of the whip and the footsteps of fear !

"And the sky of thy South may be brighter than ours, And greener thy landscapes, and fairer thy flowers ; But dearer the blast round our mountains which raves, Than the sweet summer zephyr which breathes over slaves !

"Full low at thy bidding thy negroes may kneel, With the iron of bondage on spirit and heel ; Yet know that the Yankee girl sooner would be In fetters with them, than in freedom with thee ! "

TO W. L. G.

CHAMPION of those who groan beneath Oppression's iron hand : In view of penury, hate, and death, I see thee fearless stand. Still bearing up thy lofty brow, In the steadfast strength of truth, In manhood sealing well the vow And promise of thy youth.

Go on, — for thou hast chosen well ; On in the strength of God ! Long as one human heart shall swell Beneath the tyrant's rod. Speak in a slumbering nation's ear, As thou hast ever spoken, Until the dead in sin shall hear, — The fetter's link be broken !

I love thee with a brother's love,
I feel my pulses thrill,
To mark thy spirit soar above
The cloud of human ill.
My heart hath leaped to answer thine,
And echo back thy words,
As leaps the warrior's at the shine
And flash of kindred swords !

They tell me thou art rash and vain —
A searcher after fame ;
That thou art striving but to gain
A long-enduring name ;
That thou hast nerfed the Afric's hand
And steeled the Afric's heart,
To shake aloft his vengeful brand,
And rend his chain apart.

Have I not known thee well, and read
Thy mighty purpose long ?
And watched the trials which have made
Thy human spirit strong ?
And shall the slanderer's demon breath
Avail with one like me,
To dim the sunshine of my faith
And earnest trust in thee ?

Go on, — the dagger's point may glare
Amid thy pathway's gloom, —
The fate which sternly threatens there
Is glorious martyrdom !
Then onward with a martyr's zeal ;
And wait thy sure reward
When man to man no more shall kneel,
And God alone be Lord !

1833.

SONG OF THE FREE.

PRIDE of New England !
Soul of our fathers !
Shrink we all craven-like,
When the storm gathers ?
What though the tempest be
Over us lowering,
Where 't he New-Englander
Shamefully cowering ?
Graves green and holy
Around us are lying, —
Free were the sleepers all,
Living and dying !
Back with the Southerner's
Padlocks and scourges !

Go, — let him fetter down
Ocean's free surges !
Go, — let him silence
Winds, clouds, and waters, --
Never New England's own
Free sons and daughters !
Free as our rivers are
Ocean-ward going, —
Free as the breezes are
Over us blowing.

Up to our altars, then,
Haste we, and summon
Courage and loveliness,
Manhood and woman !
Deep let our pledges be :
Freedom forever !
Truce with oppression,
Never, oh ! never !
By our own birthright-gift,
Granted of Heaven, —
Freedom for heart and lip,
Be the pledge given !

If we have whispered truth,
Whisper no longer ;
Speak as the tempest does,
Sterner and stronger ;
Still be the tones of truth
Louder and firmer,
Startling the haughty South
With the deep murmur ;
God and our charter's right,
Freedom forever !
Truce with oppression,
Never, oh ! never !

1836.

THE HUNTERS OF MEN.

HAVE ye heard of our hunting, o'er
mountain and glen,
Through cane-brake and forest, — the
hunting of men ?
The lords of our land to this hunting
have gone,
As the fox-hunter follows the sound of
the horn ;
Hark ! — the cheer and the hallo ! — the
crack of the whip,
And the yell of the hound as he fastens
his grip !

All blithe are our hunters, and noble
their match,—
Though hundreds are caught, there are
millions to catch.
So speed to their hunting, o'er moun-
tain and glen,
Through cane-brake and forest,— the
hunting of men !

Gay luck to our hunters ! — how nobly
they ride
In the glow of their zeal, and the
strength of their pride ! —
The priest with his cassock flung back
on the wind,
Just screening the politic statesman
behind.—

The saint and the sinner, with cursing
and prayer,—
The drunk and the sober, ride merrily
there.
And woman, — kind woman, — wife,
widow, and maid,
For the good of the hunted, is lending
her aid :
Her foot's in the stirrup, her hand on
the rein,
How blithely she rides to the hunting
of men !

O, goodly and grand is our hunting
to see,
In this “land of the brave and this
home of the free.”

Priest, warrior, and statesman, from
Georgia to Maine,
All mounting the saddle, — all grasp-
ing the rein,—
Right merrily hunting the black man,
whose sin
Is the curl of his hair and the hue of
his skin !

Woe, now, to the hunted who turns
him at bay !

Will our hunters be turned from their
purpose and prey ?

Will their hearts fail within them ? —
their nerves tremble, when

All roughly they ride to the hunting of
men ?

Ho ! — ALMS for our hunters ! all weary
and faint,
Wax the curse of the sinner and prayer
of the saint.

The horn is wound faintly, — the echoes
are still,
Over cane-brake and river, and forest
and hill.
Haste, — alms for our hunters ! the hunt-
ed once more
Have turned from their flight with their
backs to the shore :
What right have *they* here in the home
of the white,
Shadowed o'er by *our* banner of Free-
dom and Right ?
Ho ! — alms for the hunters ! or never
again
Will they ride in their pomp to the hunt-
ing of men !

ALMS, — ALMS for our hunters ! why
will ye delay,
When their pride and their glory are
melting away ?
The parson has turned ; for, on charge
of his own,
Who goeth a warfare, or hunting, alone ?
The politic statesman looks back with
a sigh, —
There is doubt in his heart, — there is
fear in his eye.
O, haste, lest that doubting and fear shall
prevail,
And the head of his steed take the place
of the tail.
O, haste, ere he leave us ! for who will
ride then,
For pleasure or gain, to the hunting of
men ?

1835.

CLERICAL OPPRESSORS.

[In the report of the celebrated pro-
slavery meeting in Charleston, S. C., on
the 4th of the 8th month, 1835, published in
the Courier of that city, it is stated, “The
CLERGY of all denominations attended
in a body, LENDING THEIR SANCTION TO
THE PROCEEDINGS, and adding by their
presence to the impressive character of the
scene !”]

Just God ! — and these are they
Who minister at thine altar, God of
Right !

Men who their hands with prayer and
blessing lay
On Israel's Ark of light !

What I preach and kidnap men ?
Give thanks,—and rob thy own afflicted
poor ?

Talk of thy glorious liberty, and then
Bolt hard the captive's door ?

What I servants of thy own
Merciful Son, who came to seek and save
The homeless and the outcast, — fet-
tering down

The tasked and plundered slave !

Pilate and Herod, friends !
Chief priests and rulers, as of old, com-
bine !
Just God and holy ! is that church, which
lends
Strength to the spoiler, thine ?

Paid hypocrites, who turn
Judgment aside, and rob the Holy Book
Of those high words of truth which
search and burn
In warning and rebuke ;

Feed fat, ye locusts, feed !
And, in your tasselled pulpits, thank
the Lord
That, from the toiling bondman's utter
need,
Ye pile your own full board.

How long, O Lord ! how long
Shall such a priesthood barter truth
away,
And in thy name, for robbery and
wrong
At thy own altars pray ?

Is not thy hand stretched forth
Visibly in the heavens, to awe and
smite ?
Shall not the living God of all the earth,
And heaven above, do right ?

Woe, then, to all who grind
Their brethren of a common Father
down !
To all who plunder from the immortal
mind
Its bright and glorious crown !

Woe to the priesthood ! woe
To those whose hire is with the price of
blood, —
Perverting, darkening, changing, as
they go,
The searching truths of God !

Their glory and their might
Shall perish ; and their very names shall
be
Vile before all the people, in the light
Of a world's liberty.

O, speed the moment on
When Wrong shall cease, and Liberty
and Love
And Truth and Right throughout the
earth be known
As in their home above.

THE CHRISTIAN SLAVE.

[In a late publication of L. T. Tasistro, —
"Random Shots and Southern Breezes," —
is a description of a slave auction at New
Orleans, at which the auctioneer recom-
mended the woman on the stand as "A
GOOD CHRISTIAN !"]

A CHRISTIAN ! going, gone !
Who bids for God's own image ? — for
his grace,
Which that poor victim of the market-
place
Hath in her suffering won ?

My God ! can such things be ?
Hast thou not said that whatsoe'er is
done
Unto thy weakest and thy humblest one
Is even done to thee ?

In that sad victim, then,
Child of thy pitying love, I see thes
stand, —
Once more the jest-word of a mockin
band,
Bound, sold, and scourged again

A Christian up for sale !
Wet with her blood your whips, o'er
task her frame,

Make her life loathsome with your
wrong and shame,
Her patience shall not fail !

A heathen hand might deal
Back on your heads the gathered wrong
of years :
But her low, broken prayer and nightly
tears,
Ye neither heed nor feel.

Con well thy lesson o'er,
Thou *grudent* teacher, — tell the toiling
slave
No dangerous tale of Him who came to
save
The outcast and the poor.

But wisely shut the ray
Of God's free Gospel from her simple
heart,
And to her darkened mind alone impart
One stern command, — *OBEY* !

So shalt thou destry raise
The market price of human flesh ; and
while
On thee, their pampered guest, the
planters smile,
Thy church shall praise.

Grave, reverend men shall tell
From Northern pulpits how thy work
was blest,
While in that vile South Sodom first
and best,
Thy poor disciples sell.

O, shame ! the Moslem thrall,
Who, with his master, to the Prophet
kneels,
While turning to the sacred Kebla feels
His fetters break and fall.

Cheers for the turbaned Bey
Of robber-peopled Tunis ! he hath torn
The dark slave-dungeons open, and
hath borne
Their inmates into day :

But our poor slave in vain
Turns to the Christian shrine his aching
eyes, —
Its rites will only swell his market price,
And rivet on his chain.

God of all right ! how long
Shall priestly robbers at thine altar
stand,
Lifting in prayer to thee, the bloody
hand
And haughty brow of wrong ?

O, from the fields of cane,
From the low rice-swamp, from the
trader's cell, —
From the black slave-ship's foul and
loathsome hell,
And coffin's weary chain, —

Hoarse, horrible, and strong,
Rises to Heaven that agonizing cry,
Filling the arches of the hollow sky,
How LONG, O GOD, HOW LONG ?

STANZAS FOR THE TIMES.

Is this the land our fathers loved,
The freedom which they toiled to
win ?

Is this the soil whereon they moved ?
Are these the graves they slumber
in ?

Are we the sons by whom are borne
The mantles which the dead have
worn ?

And shall we crouch above these graves,
With craven soul and fettered lip ?
Yoke in with marked and branded slaves,
And tremble at the driver's whip ?
Bend to the earth our pliant knees,
And speak — but as our masters please ?

Shall outraged Nature cease to feel ?
Shall Mercy's tears no longer flow ?
Shall ruffian threats of cord and steel, —
The dungeon's gloom, — the assassin's blow,
Turn back the spirit roused to save
The Truth, our Country, and the Slave ?

Of human skulls that shrine was made,
Round which the priests of Mexico
Before their loathsome idol prayed : —
Is Freedom's altar fashioned so ?
And must we yield to Freedom's God,
As offering meet, the negro's blood ?

Shall tongues be mute, when deeds are wrought
 Which well might shame extremest hell?
 Shall freemen lock the indignant thought?
 Shall Pitt's boom cease to swell?
 Shall Honor bleed? — shall Truth succumb?
 Shall pen, and press, and soul be dumb?
 No; — by each spot of haunted ground,
 Where Freedom weeps her children's fall, —
 By Plymouth's rock, and Bunker's mound, —
 By Griswold's stained and shattered wall, —
 By Warren's ghost, — by Langdon's shade, —
 By all the memories of our dead!
 By their enlarging souls, which burst
 The bands and fetters round them set, —
 By the free Pilgrim spirit nursed
 Within our inmost bosoms, yet, —
 By all above, around, below,
 Be ours the indignant answer, — NO!
 No; — guided by our country's laws,
 For truth, and right, and suffering man,
 Be ours to strive in Freedom's cause,
 As Christians may, — as freemen can!
 Still pouring on unwilling ears
 That truth oppression only fears.
 What! shall we guard our neighbor still,
 While woman shrieks beneath his rod,
 And while he tramples down at will
 The image of a common God!
 Shall watch and ward be round him set,
 Of Northern nerve and bayonet?
 And shall we know and share with him
 The danger and the growing shame?
 And see our Freedom's light grow dim,
 Which should have filled the world with flame?
 And, writhing, feel, where'er we turn,
 A world's reproach around us burn?

Is't not enough that this is borne?
 And asks our haughty neighbor more?
 Must setters which his slaves have worn
 Clank round the Yankee farmer's door?
 Must he be told, beside his plough,
 What he must speak, and when, and how?
 Must he be told his freedom stands
 On Slavery's dark foundations strong, —
 On breaking hearts and fettered hands,
 On robbery, and crime, and wrong?
 That all his fathers taught is vain, —
 That Freedom's emblem is the chain?
 Its life, its soul, from slavery drawn?
 False, foul, profane! Go, — teach as well
 Of holy Truth from Falsehood born!
 Of Heaven refreshed by airs from Hell!
 Of Virtue in the arms of Vice!
 Of Demons planting Paradise!
 Rail on, then, "brethren of the South," —
 Ye shall not hear the truth the less: —
 No seal is on the Yankee's mouth,
 No fetter on the Yankee's press!
 From our Green Mountains to the sea,
 One voice shall thunder, — WE ARE FREE!

LINES,

WRITTEN ON READING THE MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR RITNER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1836.

THANK God for the token! — one lip
 is still free, —
 One spirit untrammelled, — unbending one knee!
 Like the oak of the mountain, deep-rooted and firm,
 Erect, when the multitude bends to the storm;
 When traitors to Freedom, and Honor, and God,
 Are bowed at an Idol polluted with blood;

When the recreant North has forgotten
her trust,
And the lip of her honor is low in the
dust, —
Thank God, that one arm from the
shackle has broken !
Thank God, that one man as a *free-*
man has spoken !

O'er thy crags, Alleghany, a blast has
been blown !
Down thy tide, Susquehanna, the mur-
mur has gone !
To the land of the South, — of the
charter and chain, —
Of Liberty sweetened with Slavery's
pain ;
Where the cast of Democracy dwells
on the lips
Of the forgers of fetters, and wielders
of whips !
Where "chivalric" honor means really
no more
Then scourging of women, and robbing
the poor !
Where the Moloch of Slavery sitteth
on high,
And the words which he utters, are —
WORSHIP, OR DIE !

Right onward, O speed it ! Wherever
the blood
Of the wronged and the guiltless is
crying to God ;
Wherever a slave in his fetters is pin-
ing :
Wherever the lash of the driver is
twining :
Wherever from kindred, torn rudely
apart,
Comes the sorrowful wail of the broken
of heart :
Wherever the shackles of tyranny bind,
In silence and darkness, the God-given
mind :
There, God speed it onward ! — its
truth will be felt, —
The bonds shall be loosened, — the iron
shall melt !

And O, will the land where the free
soul of PENN
Still lingers and breathes over moun-
tain and glen, —

Will the land where a BENZET's spirit
went forth
To the peeled, and the meted, and out-
cast of Earth, —
Where the words of the Charter of
Liberty first
From the soul of the sage and the pa-
triot burst, —
Where first for the wronged and the
weak of their kind,
The Christian and statesman their ef-
forts combined, —
Will that land of the free and the good
wear a chain ?
Will the call to the rescue of Freedom
be vain ?

No, RITNER ! — her "Friends" at thy
warning shall stand
Erect for the truth, like their ancestral
band ;
Forgetting the feuds and the strife of
past time,
Counting coldness injustice, and silence
a crime ;
Turning back from the cavil of creeds,
to unite
Once again for the poor in defence of
the Right ;
Breasting calmly, but firmly, the full
tide of Wrong,
Overwhelmed, but not borne on its
surges along ;
Unappalled by the danger, the shame,
and the pain,
And counting each trial for Truth as
their gain !

And that bold-hearted yeomanry, hon-
est and true,
Who, haters of fraud, give to labor its
due ;
Whose fathers, of old, sang in concert
with thine,
On the banks of Swetara, the songs of
the Rhine, —
The German-born pilgrims, who first
dared to brave
The scorn of the proud in the cause of
the slave : —
Will the sons of such men yield the
lords of the South
One brow for the brand, — for the pad-
lock one mouth ?

They cater to tyrants? — They rivet
the chain,
Which their fathers smote off, on the
negro again?

No, never! — one voice, like the sound
in the cloud,
When the roar of the storm waxes loud
and more loud,
Wherever the foot of the freeman hath
pressed
From the Delaware's marge to the
Lake of the West,
On the South-going breezes shall
deepen and grow
Till the land it sweeps over shall trem-
ble below!
The voice of a PEOPLE, — uprisen, —
awake, —
Pennsylvania's watchword, with Free-
dom at stake,
Thrilling up from each valley, flung
down from each height,
**"OUR COUNTRY AND LIBERTY! —
GOD FOR THE RIGHT!"**

THE PASTORAL LETTER.

So, this is all, — the utmost reach
Of priestly power the mind to fetter!
When laymen think — when women
preach —
A war of words — a "Pastoral Let-
ter!"
Now, shame upon ye, parish Popes!
Was it thus with those, your prede-
cessors,
Who sealed with racks, and fire, and
ropes
Their loving-kindness to transgres-
sors?

A "Pastoral Letter," grave and dull —
Alas! in hoof and horns and fea-
tures,
How different is your Brookfield bull,
From him who bellows from St. Pe-
ter's!
Your pastoral rights and powers from
harm,
Think ye, can words alone preserve
them?

Your wiser fathers taught the arm
And sword of temporal power to
serve them.

O, glorious days, — when Church and
State
Were wedded by your spiritual fa-
thers!
And on submissive shoulders sat
Your Wilsons and your Cotton Ma-
thers.
No vile "itinerant" then could mar
The beauty of your tranquil Zion,
But at his peril of the scar
Of hangman's whip and branding-
iron.

Then, wholesome laws relieved the
Church
Of heretic and mischief-maker,
And priest and bailiff joined in search,
By turns, of Papist, witch, and Qua-
ker!
The stocks were at each church's door,
The gallows stood on Boston Com-
mon,
A Papist's ears the pillory bore, —
The gallows-rope, a Quaker woman!

Your fathers dealt not as ye deal
With "non-professing" frantic teach-
ers;
They bored the tongue with red-hot
steel,
And fayed the backs of "female
preachers."
Old Newbury, had her fields a tongue,
And Salem's streets could tell their
story,
Of fainting woman dragged along,
Gashed by the whip, accursed and
gory!

And will ye ask me, why this taunt
Of memories sacred from the scorner?
And why with reckless hand I plant
A nettle on the graves ye honor?
Not to reproach New England's dead
This record from the past I summon,
Of manhood to the scaffold led,
And suffering and heroic woman.

No, — for yourselves alone, I turn
The pages of intolerance over,

That, in their spirit, dark and stern,
Ye haply may your own discover !
For, if ye claim the "pastoral right,"
To silence Freedom's voice of warning,
And from your precincts shut the light
Of Freedom's day around ye dawning ;

If when an earthquake voice of power,
And signs in earth and heaven, are showing,
That forth, in its appointed hour,
The Spirit of the Lord is going !
And, with that Spirit, Freedom's light
On kindred, tongue, and people breaking,
Whose slumbering millions, at the sight,
In glory and in strength are waking !

When for the sighing of the poor,
And for the needy, God hath risen,
And chains are breaking, and a door
Is opening for the souls in prison !
If then ye would, with puny hands,
Arrest the very work of Heaven,
And bind anew the evil bands
Which God's right arm of power
hath riven, —

What marvel that, in many a mind,
Those darker deeds of bigot madness
Are closely with your own combined,
Yet "less in anger than in sadness"?
What marvel, if the people learn
To claim the right of free opinion?
What marvel, if at times they spurn
The ancient yoke of your dominion?

A glorious remnant linger yet,
Whose lips are wet at Freedom's fountains,
The coming of whose welcome feet
Is beautiful upon our mountains !
Men, who the gospel tidings bring
Of Liberty and Love forever,
Whose joy is an abiding spring,
Whose peace is as a gentle river !

But ye, who scorn the thrilling tale
Of Carolina's high-souled daughters,
Which echoes here the mournful wail
Of sorrow from Edisto's waters,

Close while ye may the public ear, —
With malice vex, with slander wound
them, —
The pure and good shall throng to hear,
And tried and manly hearts surround
them.
O, ever may the power which led
Their way to such a fiery trial,
And strengthened womanhood to tread
The wine-press of such self-denial,
Be round them in an evil land,
With wisdom and with strength from
Heaven,
With Miriam's voice, and Judith's
hand,
And Deborah's song, for triumph
given !

And what are ye who strive with God
Against the ark of his salvation,
Moved by the breath of prayer abroad,
With blessings for a dying nation ?
What, but the stubble and the hay
To perish, even as flax consuming,
With all that bars his glorious way,
Before the brightness of his coming ?

And thou, sad Angel, who so long
Hast waited for the glorious token,
That Earth from all her bonds of wrong
To liberty and light has broken, —
Angel of Freedom ! soon to thee
The sounding trumpet shall be given,
And over Earth's full jubilee
Shall deeper joy be felt in Heaven !

—
LINES,

WRITTEN FOR THE MEETING OF THE
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, AT CHAT-
HAM STREET CHAPEL, N. Y., HELD
ON THE 4TH OF THE 7TH MONTH,
1834.

O THOU, whose presence went before
Our fathers in their weary way,
As with thy chosen moved of yore
The fire by night, the cloud by day !

When from each temple of the free,
A nation's song ascends to Heaven,
Most Holy Father ! unto thee
May not our humble prayer be given ?

Thy children all,—though hue and form
Are varied in thine own good will,—
With thy own holy breathings warm,
And fashioned in thine image still.

We thank thee, Father! — hill and plain
Around us wave their fruits once more,
And clustered vine, and blossomed grain,
Are bending round each cottage door.

And peace is here; and hope and love
Are round us as a mantle thrown,
And unto Thee, supreme above,
The knee of prayer is bowed alone.

But O, for those this day can bring,
As unto us, no joyful thrill,—
For those who, under Freedom's wing,
Are bound in Slavery's fetters still:

For those to whom thy living word
Of light and love is never given,—
For those whose ears have never heard
The promise and the hope of Heaven!

For broken heart, and clouded mind,
Whereon no human mercies fall,—
O, be thy gracious love inclined,
Who, as a Father, pitiest all!

And grant, O Father! that the time
Of Earth's deliverance may be near,
When every land and tongue and clime
The message of thy love shall hear,—

When, smitten as with fire from heaven,
The captive's chain shall sink in dust,
And to his fettered soul be given
The glorious freedom of the just!

LINES,

WRITTEN FOR THE CELEBRATION OF
THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH
EMANCIPATION AT THE BROAD-
WAY TABERNACLE, N. Y., "FIRST OF
AUGUST," 1837.

O HOLY FATHER! — just and true
Are all thy works and words and ways,

And unto thee alone are due
Thanksgiving and eternal praise!
As children of thy gracious care,
We veil the eye, we bend the knee,
With broken words of praise and prayer,
Father and God, we come to thee.

For thou hast heard, O God of Right,
The sighing of the island slave;
And stretched for him the arm of might;
Not shortened that it could not save.
The laborer sits beneath his vine,
The shackled soul and hand are free,—
Thanksgiving! — for the work is thine!
Praise! — for the blessing is of thee!

And O, we feel thy presence here,—
Thy awful arm in judgment bare!
Thine eye hath seen the bondman's tear,—
Thine ear hath heard the bondman's prayer.
Praise! — for the pride of man is low,
The counsels of the wise are naught,
The fountains of repentance flow:
What hath our God in mercy wrought?

Speed on thy work, Lord God of Hosts!
And when the bondman's chain is riven,
And swells from all our guilty coasts
The anthem of the free to Heaven,
O, not to those whom thou hast led,
As with thy cloud and fire before,
But unto thee, in fear and dread,
Be praise and glory evermore.

LINES,

WRITTEN FOR THE ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST OF
AUGUST, AT MILTON, 1846.

A FEW brief years have passed away
Since Britain drove her million slaves
Beneath the tropic's fiery ray:
God willed their freedom; and to-day,
Life blooms above those island graves.

He spoke! across the Carib Sea,
We heard the clash of breaking chains;

**And felt the heart-throb of the free,
The first, strong pulse of liberty
Which thrilled along the bondman's
veins.**

Though long delayed, and far, and slow,
The Briton's triumph shall be ours :
Wears slavery here a prouder brow
Than that which twelve short years ago
Scowled darkly from her island bow-
ers ?

Mighty alike for good or ill
With mother-land, we fully share
The Saxon strength, — the nerve of
steel, —
The tireless energy of will, —
The power to do, the pride to dare.

What she has done can we not do?
Our hour and men are both at hand ;
The blast which Freedom's angel blew
O'er her green islands, echoes through
Each valley of our forest land.

**Hear it, old Europe ! we have sworn
The death of slavery. — When it falls,**
Look to your vassals in their turn,
Your poor dumb millions, crushed and
worn,
Your prisons and your palace walls !

Ckingly mockers ! — scoffing show
What deeds in Freedom's name we
do ;
Yet know that every taunt ye throw
Across the waters, goads our slow
Progression towards the right and true.

Not always shall your outraged poor,
Appalled by democratic crime,
Grind as their fathers ground before, —
The hour which sees our prison door
Swing wide shall be *their* triumph
time.

On then, my brothers ! every blow
Ye deal is felt the wide earth through :
Whatever here uplifts the low
Or humbles Freedom's hateful foe,
Blesses the Old World through the
New.

Take heart ! The promised hour draws
near, —
I hear the downward beat of wings,

And Freedom's trumpet sounding clear :
“Joy to the people ! — woe and fear
To new-world tyrants, old-world
kings !”

THE FAREWELL

**OF A VIRGINIA SLAVE MOTHER TO HER
DAUGHTERS SOLD INTO SOUTHERN
BONDAGE.**

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.
Where the slave-whip ceaseless swings,
Where the noisome insect stings,
Where the fever demon strews
Poison with the falling dews,
Where the sickly sunbeams glare
Through the hot and misty air, —
Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters, —
Woe is me, my stolen daughters !

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.
There no mother's eye is near them,
There no mother's ear can hear them ;
Never, when the torturing lash
Seams their back with many a gash,
Shall a mother's kindness bless them,
Or a mother's arms caress them.
Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters, —
Woe is me, my stolen daughters !

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
O, when weary, sad, and slow,
From the fields at night they go,
Faint with toil, and racked with pain,
To their cheerless homes again,
There no brother's voice shall greet
them, —
There no father's welcome meet them.
Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters, —
Woe is me, my stolen daughters !

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,

From the tree whose shadow lay
On their childhood's place of play, —
From the cool spring where they drank, —
Rock, and hill, and rivulet bank, —
Join the solemn house of prayer,
And the holy counsels there, —

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters, —
Woe is me, my stolen daughters !

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone, —
Tolling through the weary day,
And at night the spoiler's prey.
That they had earlier died,
Keeping calmly, side by side,
Here the tyrant's power is o'er,
And the fetter galls no more !

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters, —
Woe is me, my stolen daughters !

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.
By the holy love He beareth, —
By the bruised reed He spareth, —
O, may He, to whom alone
All their cruel wrongs are known,
Still their hope and refuge prove,
With a more than mother's love.

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters, —
Woe is me, my stolen daughters !

THE MORAL WARFARE.

WHEN Freedom, on her natal day,
Within her war-rocked cradle lay,
An iron race around her stood,
Baptized her infant brow in blood ;
And, through the storm which round
her swept,
Their constant ward and watching kept.

Then, where our quiet herds repose,
The roar of baleful battle rose,
And brethren of a common tongue
To mortal strife as tigers sprung,
And every gift on Freedom's shrine
Was man for beast, and blood for wine !

Our fathers to their graves have gone;
Their strife is past, — their triumph
won ;

But sterner trials wait the race
Which rises in their honored place, —
A moral warfare with the crime
And folly of an evil time.

So let it be. In God's own might
We gird us for the coming fight,
And, strong in Him whose cause is ours
In conflict with unholy powers,
We grasp the weapons He has given, —
The Light, and Truth, and Love of
Heaven.

THE WORLD'S CONVENTION

OF THE FRIENDS OF EMANCIPATION,
HELD IN LONDON IN 1840.

Yea, let them gather ! — Summon forth
The pledged philanthropy of Earth,
From every land, whose hills have heard

The bugle blast of Freedom waking ;
Or shrieking of her symbol-bird

From out his cloudy eyrie breaking :
Where Justice hath one worshipper,
Or truth one altar built to her ;
Where'er a human eye is weeping

O'er wrongs which Earth's sad children know, —

Where'er a single heart is keeping
Its prayerful watch with human woe :
Thence let them come, and greet each other,
And know in each a friend and brother !

Yes, let them come ! from each green vale

Where England's old baronial halls
Still bear upon their storied walls
The grim crusader's rusted mail,
Battered by Paynim spear and brand
On Malta's rock or Syria's sand !
And mouldering pennon-staves once set

Within the soil of Palestine,
By Jordan and Genesaret ;
Or, borne with England's battle line,
O'er Acre's shattered turrets stooping,
Or, midst the camp their banners drooping,

With dews from hallowed Hermon wet,
 A holier summons now is given
 Than that gray hermit's voice of old,
 Which unto all the winds of heaven
 The banners of the Cross unrolled !
 Not for the long-deserted shrine,—
 Not for the dull unconscious sod,
 Which tells not by one lingering sign
 That there the hope of Israel trod ;—
 But for that TRUTH, for which alone
 In pilgrim eyes are sanctified
 The garden moss, the mountain stone,
 Whereon his holy sandals pressed,—
 The fountain which his lip hath blessed,—
 Whate'er hath touched his garment's hem
 At Bethany or Bethlehem,
 Or Jordan's river-side.
 For FREEDOM, in the name of Him
 Who came to raise Earth's drooping poor,
 To break the chain from every limb,
 The bolt from every prison door !
 For these, o'er all the earth hath passed
 An ever-deepening trumpet blast,
 As if an angel's breath had lent
 His vigor to the instrument.

And Wales, from Snowden's mountain wall,
 Shall startle at that thrilling call,
 As if she heard her bards again ;
 And Erin's "harp on Tara's wall"
 Give out its ancient strain,
 Mirthful and sweet, yet sad withal,—
 The melody which Erin loves,
 When o'er that harp, 'mid bursts of gladness
 And slogan cries and lyke-wake sadness,
 The hand of her O'Connell moves !
 Scotland, from lake and tarn and rill,
 And mountain hold, and heathery hill,
 Shall catch and echo back the note,
 As if she heard upon her air
 Once more her Cameronian's prayer
 And song of Freedom float.
 And cheering echoes shall reply
 From each remote dependency,
 Where Britain's mighty sway is known,
 In tropic sea or frozen zone ;
 Where'er her sunset flag is furling,

Or morning gun-fire's smoke is curling ;
 From Indian Bengal's groves of palm
 And rosy fields and gales of balm,
 Where Eastern pomp and power are rolled
 Through regal Ava's gates of gold ;
 And from the lakes and ancient woods
 And dim Canadian solitudes,
 Whence, sternly from her rocky throne,
 Queen of the North, Quebec looks down ;
 And from those bright and ransomed Isles
 Where all unwanted Freedom smiles,
 And the dark laborer still retains
 The scar of slavery's broken chains !
 From the hoar Alps, which sentinel
 The gateways of the land of Tell,
 Where morning's keen and earliest glance
 On Jura's rocky wall is thrown,
 And from the olive bower of France
 And vine groves garlanding the Rhone,—
 "Friends of the Blacks," as true and tried
 As those who stood by Oge's side,
 And heard the Haytien's tale of wrong,
 Shall gather at that summons strong,—
 Broglie, Passy, and him whose song
 Breathed over Syria's holy sod,
 And in the paths which Jesus trod,
 And murmured midst the hills which hem
 Crownless and sad Jerusalem,
 Hath echoes wheresoe'er the tone
 Of Israel's prophet-lyre is known.
 Still let them come, — from Quito's walls,
 And from the Orinoco's tide,
 From Lima's Inca-haunted halls,
 From Santa Fe and Yucatan, —
 Men who by swart Guerrero's side
 Proclaimed the deathless RIGHTS OF MAN,
 Broke every bond and fetter off,
 And hailed in every sable serf
 A free and brother Mexican !
 Chiefs who across the Andes' chain
 Have followed Freedom's flowing pennon,
 And seen on Junin's fearful plain,
 Glare o'er the broken ranks of Spain
 The fire-burst of Bolivar's cannon !

And Hayti, from her mountain land,
Shall send the sons of those who
 hurled
Defiance from her blazing strand,—
The war-gage from her Petion's hand,
 Alone against a hostile world.

Nor all unmindful, thou, the while,
Land of the dark and mystic Nile! —
 Thy Moslem mercy yet may shame
All tyrants of a Christian name, —
When in the shade of Gizeh's pile,
Or, where from Abyssinian hills
El Gerek's upper fountain fills,
Or where from Mountains of the Moon
El Abiad bears his watery boon,
Where'er thy lotus blossoms swim
 Within their ancient hallowed wa-
 ters, —

Where'er is heard the Coptic hymn,
Or song of Nubia's sable daugh-
 ters, —

The curse of SLAVERY and the crime,
Thy bequest from remotest time,
At thy dark Mehemet's decree
Forevermore shall pass from thee;
 And chains forsake each captive's
 limb

Of all those tribes, whose hills around
Have echoed back the cymbal sound
 And victor horn of Ibrahim.

And thou whose glory and whose crime
To earth's remotest bound and clime,
In mingled tones of awe and scorn,
The echoes of a world have borne,
My country! glorious at thy birth,
A day-star flashing brightly forth, —
The herald-sign of Freedom's dawn!
O, who could dream that saw thee
 then,

And watched thy rising from afar,
That vapors from oppression's fen
 Would cloud the upward tending
 star?

Or, that earth's tyrant powers, which
 heard,

Awe-struck, the shout which hailed
 thy dawning,
Would rise so soon, prince, peer, and
 king,
To mock thee with their welcoming,
Like Hades when her thrones were
 stirred

To greet the down-cast Star of
 Morning!
“Aha! and art thou fallen thus?
Art thou become as one of us?”

Land of my fathers! — there will stand,
Amidst that world-assembled band,
Those owning thy maternal claim
Unweakened by thine crime and shame, —
The sad reprovers of thy wrong, —
The children thou hast spurned so long.
Still with affection's fondest yearning
To their unnatural mother turning.
No traitors they! — but tried and true,
Whose own is but thy general weal,
Still blending with the patriot's zeal
The Christian's love for human kind,
To caste and climate unconfined.

A holy gathering! — peaceful all:
No threat of war, — no savage call
 For vengeance on an erring brother!
But in their stead the godlike plan
To teach the brotherhood of man
 To love and reverence one another,
As sharers of a common blood,
The children of a common God! —
Yet, even at its lightest word,
Shall Slavery's darkest depths bestirred:
Spain, watching from her Moro's keep
Her slave-ships traversing the deep,
And Rio, in her strength and pride,
Lifting, along her mountain-side,
Her snowy battlements and towers, —
Her lemon-groves and tropic bower,
With bitter hate and sullen fear
Its freedom-giving voice shall hear;
And where my country's flag is flowing,
On breezes from Mount Vernon blow-
 ing

Above the Nation's council halls,
Where Freedom's praise is loud and
 long,

While close beneath the outward walls
The driver plies his reeking thong, —
 The hammer of the man-thief falls,
O'er hypocritic cheek and brow
The crimson flush of shame shall glow:
And all who for their native land
Are pledging life and heart and hand, —
Worn watchers o'er her changing weal,
Who for her tarnished honor feel, —
Through cottage door and council-hall
Shall thunder an awakening call.

The pen along its page shall burn
 With all intolerable scorn, —
 An eloquent rebuke shall go
 On all the winds that Southward blow, —
 From priestly lips, now sealed and dumb,
 Warning and dread appeal shall come,
 Like those which Israel heard from
 him,
 The Prophet of the Cherubim, —
 Or those which sad Esaias hurled
 Against a sin-accursed world !
 Its wizard leaves the Press shall fling
 Unceasing from its iron wing,
 With characters inscribed thereon,
 As fearful in the despot's hall
 As to the pomp of Babylon
 The fire-sign on the palace wall !
 And, from her dark iniquities,
 Methinks I see my country rise :
 Not challenging the nations round
 To note her tardy justice done, —
 Her captives from their chains unbound,
 Her prisons opening to the sun : —
 But tearfully her arms extending
 Over the poor and unoffending ;
 Her regal emblem now no longer
 A bird of prey, with talons reeking,
 Above the dying captive shrieking,
 But, spreading out her ample wing, —
 A broad, impartial covering, —
 The weaker sheltered by the strong-
 er ! —

O, then to Faith's anointed eyes
 The promised token shall be given ;
 And on a nation's sacrifice,
 Atoning for the sin of years,
 And wet with penitential tears, —
 The fire shall fall from Heaven !

1839.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

1845.

God bless New Hampshire ! — from
 her granite peaks
 Once more the voice of Stark and
 Langdon speaks.
 The long-bound vassal of the exulting
 South
 * For very shame her self-forged chain
 has broken, —

Torn the black seal of slavery from her
 mouth,
 And in the clear tones of her old time
 spoken !
 O, all undreamed-of, all unhoped-for
 changes ! —
 The tyrant's ally proves his stern-
 est foe ;
 To all his biddings, from her mountain
 ranges,
 New Hampshire thunders an indig-
 nant No !
 Who is it now despairs ? O, faint of heart,
 Look upward to those Northern
 mountains cold,
 Flouted by Freedom's victor-flag un-
 rolled,
 And gather strength to bear a manius
 part !
 All is not lost. The angel of God's
 blessing
 Encamps with Freedom on the field
 of fight ;
 Still to her banner, day by day, are
 pressing,
 Unlooked-for allies, striking for the
 right !
 Courage, then, Northern hearts ! — Be
 firm, be true :
 What one brave State hath done, can ye
 not also do ?

THE NEW YEAR :

ADDRESSED TO THE PATRONS OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA FREEMAN.

THE wave is breaking on the shore, —
 The echo fading from the chime, —
 Again the shadow moveth o'er
 The dial-plate of time !

O, seer-seen Angel ! waiting now
 With weary feet on sea and shore,
 Impatient for the last dread vow
 That time shall be no more !

Once more across thy sleepless eye
 The semblance of a smile has passed
 The year departing leaves more nigh
 Time's fearfullest and last.

O, in that dying year hath been
The sum of all since time began,—
The birth and death, the joy and pain,
Of Nature and of Man.

Spring, with her change of sun and shower,
And streams released from Winter's chain,
And bursting bud, and opening flower,
And greenly growing grain;

And Summer's shade, and sunshine warm,
And rainbowso'er her hill-tops bowed,
And voices in her rising storm,—
God speaking from his cloud!—

And Autumn's fruits and clustering sheaves,
And soft, warm days of golden light,
The glory of her forest leaves,
And harvest-moon at night;

And Winter with her leafless grove,
And prisoned stream, and drifting snow,
The brilliance of her heaven above
And of her earth below:—

And man,—in whom an angel's mind
With earth's low instincts finds abode,—
The highest of the links which bind
Brute nature to her God;

His infant eye hath seen the light,
His childhood's merriest laughter rung,
And active sports to manlier might
The nerves of boyhood strung!

And quiet love, and passion's fires,
Have soothed or burned in manhood's breast,
And lofty aims and low desires
By turns disturbed his rest.

The wailing of the newly-born
Has mingled with the funeral knell;
And o'er the dying's ear has gone
The merry marriage-bell.

And Wealth has filled his halls with mirth,
While Want, in many a humble shed,
Toiled, shivering by her cheerless hearth,
The live-long night for bread.

And worse than all,—the human slave,—
The sport of lust, and pride, and scorn!
Plucked off the crown his Maker gave,—
His regal manhood gone.

O, still, my country! o'er thy plains,
Blackened with slavery's blight and ban,
That human chattel drags his chains,—
An uncreated man!

And still, where'er to sun and breeze,
My country, is thy flag unrolled,
With scorn, the gazing stranger sees
A stain on every fold.

O, tear the gorgeous emblem down!
It gathers scorn from every eye,
And despots smile and good men frown:
Whene'er it passes by.

Shame! shame! its starry splendor,
glow
Above the slaver's loathsome jail,
Its folds are ruffling even now
His crimson flag of sale.

Still round our country's proudest hal
The trade in human flesh is driven,
And at each careless hammer-fall
A human heart is riven.

And this, too, sanctioned by the men,
Vested with power to shield the right,
And throw each vile and robber den
Wide open to the light.

Yet, shame upon them!—there they sit,
Men of the North, subdued and still,
Meek, pliant poltroons, only fit
To work a master's will.

Sold, — bargained off for Southern
votes, —

A passive herd of Northern mules,
Just braying through their purchased
throats

Whate'er their owner rules.

And he,²⁶ — the basest of the base,
The vilest of the vile, — whose name,
Embalmed in infinite disgrace,
Is deathless in its shame ! —

A tool, — to bolt the people's door
Against the people clamoring there,
An ass, — to trample on their floor
A people's right of prayer !

Nailed to his self-made gibbet fast,
Self-pilloried to the public view, —
A mark for every passing blast
Of scorn to whistle through ;

There let him hang, and hear the boast
Of Southrons o'er their pliant tool, —
A new Stylites on his post,
"Sacred to ridicule ! "

Look we at home ! — our noble hall,
To Freedom's holy purpose given,
Now rears its black and ruined wall,
Beneath the wintry heaven, —

Telling the story of its doom, —
The fiendish mob, — the prostrate
law, —
The fiery jet through midnight's gloom,
Our gazing thousands saw.

Look to our State, — the poor man's
right
Torn from him : — and the sons of
those
Whose blood in Freedom's sternest
fight
Sprinkled the Jersey snows,

Outlawed within the land of Penn,
That Slavery's guilty fears might
cease,
And those whom God created men
Toil on as brutes in peace.

Yet o'er the blackness of the storm
A bow of promise bends on high,
And gleams of sunshine, soft and warm,
Break through our clouded sky.

East, West, and North, the shout is
heard,
Of freemen rising for the right :
Each valley hath its rallying word, —
Each hill its signal light.

O'er Massachusetts' rocks of gray,
The strengthening light of freedom
shines,
Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay, —
And Vermont's snow-hung pines !

From Hudson's frowning palisades
To Alleghany's laurelled crest,
O'er lakes and prairies, streams and
glades,
It shines upon the West.

Speed on the light to those who dwell
In Slavery's land of woe and sin,
And through the blackness of that hell,
Let Heaven's own light break in.

So shall the Southern conscience quake
Before that light poured full and
strong,
So shall the Southern heart awake
To all the bondman's wrong.

And from that rich and sunny land
The song of grateful millions rise,
Like that of Israel's ransomed band
Beneath Arabia's skies :

And all who now are bound beneath
Our banner's shade, our eagle's
wing,
From Slavery's night of moral death
To light and life shall spring.

Broken the bondman's chain, and
gone
The master's guilt, and hate, and
fear,
And unto both alike shall dawn,
A New and Happy Year.

MASSACHUSETTS TO VIRGINIA.

[Written on reading an account of the proceedings of the citizens of Norfolk, Va., in reference to **GEORGE LATIMER**, the alleged fugitive slave, the result of whose case in Massachusetts will probably be similar to that of the negro **SOMERSET** in England, in 1772.]

THE blast from Freedom's Northern hills, upon its Southern way,
Bears greeting to Virginia from Massachusetts Bay :—
No word of haughty challenging, nor battle bugle's peal,
Nor steady tread of marching files, nor clang of horsemen's steel.

No trains of deep-mouthed cannon along our highways go, —
Around our silent arsenals untrodden lies the snow ;
And to the land-breeze of our ports, upon their errands far,
A thousand sails of commerce swell, but none are spread for war.

We hear thy threats, Virginia ! thy stormy words and high,
Swell harshly on the Southern winds which melt along our sky ;
Yet, not one brown, hard hand foregoes its honest labor here, —
No hewer of our mountain oaks suspends his axe in fear.

Wild are the waves which lash the reefs along St. George's bank, —
Cold on the shore of Labrador the fog lies white and dank ;
Through storm, and wave, and blinding mist, stout are the hearts which pass
The fishing-smacks of Marblehead, the sea-boats of Cape Ann.

The cold north light and wintry sun glare on their icy forms,
Bent grimly o'er their straining lines or wrestling with the storms ;
Free as the winds they drive before, rough as the waves they roam,
They laugh to scorn the slaver's threat against their rocky home.

What means the Old Dominion ? Hath she forgot the day
When o'er her conquered valleys swept the Briton's steel array ?
How side by side, with sons of hers, the Massachusetts men
Encountered Tarleton's charge of fire, and stout Cornwallis, then ?

Forgets she how the Bay State, in answer to the call
Of her old House of Burgesses, spoke out from Faneuil Hall ?
When, echoing back her Henry's cry, came pulsing on each breath
Of Northern winds, the thrilling sounds of "LIBERTY OR DEATH ! "

What asks the Old Dominion ? If now her sons have proved
False to their fathers' memory, — false to the faith they loved,
If she can scoff at Freedom, and its great charter spurn,
Must we of Massachusetts from truth and duty turn ?

We hunt your bondmen, flying from Slavery's hateful hell, —
Our voices, at your bidding, take up the bloodhound's yell, —
We gather, at your summons, above our fathers' graves,
From Freedom's holy altar-horns to tear your wretched slaves !

Thank God ! not yet so vilely can Massachusetts bow ;
The spirit of her early time is with her even now ;
Dream not because her Pilgrim blood moves slow and calm and cool,
She thus can stoop her chainless neck, a sister's slave and tool !

All that a *sister* State should do, all that a *free* State may,
 Heart, hand, and purse we proffer, as in our early day;
 But that one dark loathsome burden ye must stagger with alone,
 And reap the bitter harvest which ye yourselves have sown!

Hold, while ye may, your struggling slaves, and burden God's free air
 With woman's shriek beneath the lash, and manhood's wild despair;
 Cling closer to the "cleaving curse" that writes upon your plains
 The blasting of Almighty wrath against a land of chains.

Still shame your gallant ancestry, the cavaliers of old,
 By watching round the shambles where human flesh is sold, —
 Gloat o'er the new-born child, and count his market value, when
 The maddened mother's cry of woe shall pierce the slaver's den!

Lower than plummet soundeth, sink the Virginia name;
 Plant, if ye will, your fathers' graves with rankest weeds of shame;
 Be, if ye will, the scandal of God's fair universe, —
 We wash our hands forever of your sin and shame and curse.

A voice from lips whereon the coal from Freedom's shrine hath been,
 Thrilled, as but yesterday, the hearts of Berkshire's mountain men:
 The echoes of that solemn voice are sadly lingering still
 In all our sunny valleys, on every wind-swept hill.

And when the prowling man-thief came hunting for his prey
 Beneath the very shadow of Bunker's shaft of gray,
 How, through the free lips of the son, the father's warning spoke:
 How, from its bonds of trade and sect, the Pilgrim city broke!

A hundred thousand right arms were lifted up on high, —
 A hundred thousand voices sent back their loud reply:
 Through the thronged towns of Essex the startling summons rang,
 And up from bench and loom and wheel her young mechanics sprang!

The voice of free, broad Middlesex, — of thousands as of one, —
 The shaft of Bunker calling to that of Lexington, —
 From Norfolk's ancient villages, from Plymouth's rocky bound
 To where Nantucket feels the arms of ocean close her round: —

From rich and rural Worcester, where through the calm repose
 Of cultured vales and fringing woods the gentle Nashua flows,
 To where Wachusett's wintry blasts the mountain larches stir,
 Swelled up to Heaven the thrilling cry of "God save Latimer!"

And sandy Barnstable rose up, wet with the salt sea spray, —
 And Bristol sent her answering shout down Narragansett Bay! —
 Along the broad Connecticut old Hampden felt the thrill,
 And the cheer of Hampshire's woodmen swept down from Holyoke Hill.

The voice of Massachusetts! Of her free sons and daughters, —
 Deep calling unto deep aloud, — the sound of many waters!
 Against the burden of that voice what tyrant power shall stand?
No fatter is the Bay State! No slave upon her land!

VOICES OF FREEDOM.

Look to it well, Virginians ! In calmness we have borne,
 In answer to our faith and trust, your insult and your scorn ;
 You 've spurned our kindest counsels, — you 've hunted for our lives, —
 And shaken round our hearths and homes your manacles and gyves !

We wage no war, — we lift no arm, — we fling no torch within
 The fire-damps of the quaking mine beneath your soil of sin ;
 We leave ye with your bondmen, to wrestle, while ye can,
 With the strong upward tendencies and godlike soul of man !

But for us and for our children, the vow which we have given
 For freedom and humanity is registered in Heaven ;
No slave-hunt in our borders, — no pirate on our strand !
No settlers in the Bay State, — no slave upon our land !

THE RELIC.

[PENNSYLVANIA HALL, dedicated to Free Discussion and the cause of human liberty, was destroyed by a mob in 1838. The following was written on receiving a cane wrought from a fragment of the wood-work which the fire had spared.]

TOKEN of friendship true and tried,
 From one whose fiery heart of youth
 With mine has beaten, side by side,
 For Liberty and Truth ;
 With honest pride the gift I take,
 And prize it for the giver's sake.

But not alone because it tells
 Of generous hand and heart sincere :
 Around that gift of friendship dwells
 A memory doubly dear, —
 Earth's noblest aim, — man's holiest
 thought,
 With that memorial frail inwrought !

Pure thoughts and sweet, like flowers
 unfold,
 And precious memories round it cling,
 Even as the Prophet's rod of old
 In beauty blossoming :
 And buds of feeling pure and good
 Spring from its cold unconscious wood.

Relic of Freedom's shrine ! — a brand
 Plucked from its burning ! — let it be
 Dear as a jewel from the hand
 Of a lost friend to me ! —
 Flower of a perished garland left,
 Of life and beauty unbereft !

O, if the young enthusiast bears,
 O'er weary waste and sea, the stone
 Which crumbled from the Forum's
 stairs,
 Or round the Parthenon ;
 Or olive-bough from some wild tree
 Hung over old Thermopylae :

If leaflets from some hero's tomb,
 Or moss-wreath torn from ruins
 hoary, —
 Or faded flowers whose sisters bloom
 On fields renowned in story, —
 Or fragment from the Alhambra's crest,
 Or the gray rock by Druids blessed ;

Sad Erin's shamrock greenly growing
 Where Freedom led her stalwart kern,
 Or Scotia's "rough bur thistle" blowing
 On Bruce's Bannockburn, —
 Or Runnymede's wild English rose,
 Or lichen plucked from Sempach's
 snows ! —

If it be true that things like these
 To heart and eye bright visions bring,
 Shall not far holier memories
 To this memorial cling ?
 Which needs no mellowing mist of time
 To hide the crimson stains of crime !

Wreck of a temple, unprofaned,—
Of courts where Peace with Freedom
trod,
Lifting on high, with hands unstained,
Thanksgiving unto God;
Where Mercy's voice of love was pleading
For human hearts in bondage bleeding!—

Where, midst the sound of rushing feet
And curses on the night-air flung,
That pleading voice rose calm and sweet
From woman's earnest tongue;
And Riot turned his scowling glance,
Awed, from her tranquil countenance!

What temple now in ruin lies!—
The fire-stain on its shattered wall,
And open to the changing skies
Its black and roofless hall,
It stands before a nation's sight,
A gravestone over buried Right!

But from that ruin, as of old,
The fire-scorched stones themselves
are crying,
And from their ashes white and cold
Its timbers are replying!
A voice which slavery cannot kill
Speaks from the crumbling arches
still!

And even this relic from thy shrine,
O holy Freedom! hath to me
A potent power, a voice and sign
To testify of thee:
And, grasping it, methinks I feel
A deeper faith, a stronger zeal.

And not unlike that mystic rod,
Of old stretched o'er the Egyptian
wave,
Which opened, in the strength of God,
A pathway for the slave,
It yet may point the bondman's way,
And turn the spoiler from his prey.

THE BRANDED HAND.

1846.

WELCOME home again, brave seaman! with thy thoughtful brow and gray,
And the old heroic spirit of our earlier, better day,—
With that front of calm endurance, on whose steady nerve in vain
Pressed the iron of the prison, smote the fiery shafts of pain!

Is the tyrant's brand upon thee? Did the brutal cravens aim
To make God's truth thy falsehood, his holiest work thy shame?
When, all blood-quenched, from the torture the iron was withdrawn,
How laughed their evil angel the baffled fools to scorn!

They change to wrong the duty which God hath written out
On the great heart of humanity, too legible for doubt!
They, the loathsome moral lepers, blotched from footsole up to crown,
Give to shame what God hath given unto honor and renown!

Why, that brand is highest honor! — than its traces never yet
Upon old armorial hatchments was a prouder blazon set;
And thy unborn generations, as they tread our rocky strand,
Shall tell with pride the story of their father's BRANDED HAND!

As the Templar home was welcome, bearing back from Syrian wars
The scars of Arab lances and of Paynim scymitars,
The pallor of the prison, and the shackle's crimson span,
So we meet thee, so we greet thee, truest friend of God and man!

He suffered for the ransom of the dear Redeemer's grave,
 Thou for his living presence in the bound and bleeding slave ;
 He for a soil no longer by the feet of angels trod,
 Thou for the true Shechinah, the present home of God !

For, while the jurist, sitting with the slave-whip o'er him swung,
 From the tortured truths of freedom the lie of slavery wrung,
 And the solemn priest to Moloch, on each God-deserted shrine,
 Broke the bondman's heart for bread, poured the bondman's blood for wine, —

While the multitude in blindness to a far-off Saviour knelt,
 And spurned, the while, the temple where a present Saviour dwelt ;
 Thou beheld'st him in the task-field, in the prison shadows dim,
 And thy mercy to the bondman, it was mercy unto him !

In thy lone and long night-watches, sky above and wave below,
 Thou didst learn a higher wisdom than the babbling schoolmen know :
 God's stars and silence taught thee, as his angels only can,
 That the one sole sacred thing beneath the cope of heaven is Man !

That he who treads profanely on the scrolls of law and creed,
 In the depth of God's great goodness may find mercy in his need ;
 But woe to him who crushes the soul with chain and rod,
 And herds with lower natures the awful form of God !

Then lift that manly right-hand, bold ploughman of the wave !
 Its branded palm shall prophesy, " SALVATION TO THE SLAVE ! "
 Hold up its fire-wrought language, that whoso reads may feel
 His heart swell strong within him, his sinews change to steel.

Hold it up before our sunshine, up against our Northern air, —
 Ho ! men of Massachusetts, for the love of God, look there !
 Take it henceforth for your standard, like the Bruce's heart of yore,
 In the dark strife closing round ye, let that hand be seen before !

And the tyrants of the slave-land shall tremble at that sign,
 When it points its finger Southward along the Puritan line :
 Woe to the State-gorged leeches and the Church's locust band,
 When they look from slavery's ramparts on the coming of that hand !

TEXAS.

VOICE OF NEW ENGLAND.

Up the hillside, down the glen,
 Rouse the sleeping citizen ;
 Summon out the might of men !

Like a lion growling low, —
 Like a night-storm rising slow, —
 Like the tread of unseen foe, —

It is coming, — it is nigh !
 Stand your homes and altars by ;
 On your own free thresholds die.

Clang the bells in all your spires ;
 On the gray hills of your sires
 Fling to heaven your signal-fires.

From Wachusett, lone and bleak,
 Unto Berkshire's tallest peak,
 Let the flame-tongued heralds speak.

O, sir God and duty stand,
Heart to heart and hand to hand,
Round the old graves of the land.

Whoso shrinks or falters now,
Whoso to the yoke would bow,
Brand the craven on his brow !

Freedom's soil hath only place
For a free and fearless race, —
None for traitors false and base.

Perish party, — perish clan ;
Strike together while ye can,
Like the arm of one strong man.

Like that angel's voice sublime,
Heard above a world of crime.
Crying of the end of time, —

With one heart and with one mouth,
Let the North unto the South
Speak the word befitting both :

“ What though Issachar be strong !
Ye may load his back with wrong
Overmuch and over long :

“ Patience with her cup o'errun,
With her weary thread outspun,
Murmurs that her work is done.

“ Make our Union-bond a chain,
Weak as tow in Freedom's strain
Link by link shall snap in twain.

“ Vainly shall your sand-wrought rope
Bind the starry cluster up,
Shattered over heaven's blue cope !

“ Give us bright though broken rays,
Rather than eternal haze,
Clouding o'er the full-orbed blaze.

“ Take your land of sun and bloom :
Only leave to Freedom room
For her plough, and forge, and loom :

“ Take your slavery-blackened vales ;
Leave us but our own free gales,
Blowing on our thousand sails.

“ Boldly, or with treacherous art,
Strike the blood-wrought chain apart ;
Break the Union's mighty heart ;

“ Work the ruin, if ye will ;
Pluck upon your heads an ill
Which shall grow and deepen still.

“ With your bondman's right arm bare,
With his heart of black despair,
Stand alone, if stand ye dare !

“ Onward with your fell design :
Dig the gulf and draw the line :
Fire beneath your feet the mine :

“ Deeply, when the wide abyss
Yawns between your land and this,
Shall ye feel your helplessness.

“ By the hearth, and in the bed,
Shaken by a look or tread,
Ye shall own a guilty dread.

“ And the curse of unpaid toil,
Downward through your generous soil
Like a fire shall burn and spoil.

“ Our bleak hills shall bud and blow,
Vines our rocks shall overgrow,
Plenty in our valleys flow ; —

“ And when vengeance clouds your
skies,
Hither shall ye turn your eyes,
As the lost on Paradise !

“ We but ask our rocky strand,
Freedom's true and brother band,
Freedom's strong and honest hand, —

“ Valleys by the slave untrod,
And the Pilgrim's mountain sod,
Blessed of our fathers' God ! ”

TO FANEUIL HALL.

1844.

MEN ! — if manhood still ye claim,
If the Northern pulse can thrill,
Roused by wrong or stung by shame,
Freely, strongly still, —
Let the sounds of traffic die :
Shut the mill-gate, — leave the stall, —
Fling the axe and hammer by. —
Strong to Faneuil Hall !

Wrongs which freemen never brooked,—
Dangers grim and fierce as they,
Which, like couching lions, looked
On your fathers' way,—
These your instant zeal demand,
Shaking with their earthquake-call
Every rood of Pilgrim land,
Ho, to Faneuil Hall !

From your capes and sandy bars,—
From your mountain-ridges cold,
Through whose pines the westering stars
Stoop their crowns of gold,—
Come, and with your footsteps wake
Echoes from that holy wall ;
Once again, for Freedom's sake,
Rock your fathers' hall !

Up, and tread beneath your feet
Every cord by party spun :
Let your hearts together beat
As the heart of one.
Banks and tariffs, stocks and trade,
Let them rise or let them fall :
Freedom asks your common aid,—
Up, to Faneuil Hall !

Up, and let each voice that speaks
Ring from thence to Southern plains,
Sharply as the blow which breaks
Prison-bolts and chains !
Speak as well becomes the free :
Dreaded more than steel or ball,
Shall your calmest utterance be,
Heard from Faneuil Hall !

Have they wronged us ? Let us then
Render back nor threats nor prayers ;
Have they chained our free-born men ?
LET US UNCHAIN THEIRS !
Up, your banner leads the van,
Blazoned, "Liberty for all !"
Finish what your sires began !
Up, to Faneuil Hall !

TO MASSACHUSETTS.

1844

WHAT though around thee blazes
No fiery rallying sign ?

From all thy own high places,
Give heaven the light of thine !
What though unthrilled, unmoving,
The statesman stands apart,
And comes no warm approving
From Mammon's crowded mart ?

Still, let the land be shaken
By a summons of thine own !
By all save truth forsaken,
Why, stand with that alone !
Shrink not from strife unequal !
With the best is always hope ;
And ever in the sequel
God holds the right side up !

But when, with thine uniting,
Come voices long and loud,
And far-off hills are writing
Thy fire-words on the cloud ;
When from Penobscot's fountains
A deep response is heard,
And across the Western mountains
Rolls back thy rallying word ;

Shall thy line of battle falter,
With its allies just in view ?
O, by hearth and holy altar,
My fatherland, be true !
Fling abroad thy scrolls of Freedom !
Speed them onward far and fast !
Over hill and valley speed them,
Like the sibyl's on the blast !

Lo ! the Empire State is shaking
The shackles from her hand ;
With the rugged North is waking
The level sunset land !
On they come, — the free battalions !
East and West and North they come,
And the heart-beat of the millions
Is the beat of Freedom's drum.

" To the tyrant's plot no favor !
No heed to place-fed knaves !
Bar and bolt the door forever,
Against the land of slaves !"
Hear it, mother Earth, and hear it,
The Heavens above us spread !
The land is roused, — its spirit
Was sleeping, but not dead !

THE PINE-TREE.

1846.

LIFT again the stately emblem on the Bay State's rusted shield,
 Give to Northern winds the Pine-Tree on our banner's tattered field.
 Sons of men who sat in council with their Bibles round the board,
 Answering England's royal missive with a firm, " **THUS SAITH THE LORD!**"
 Rise again for home and freedom! — set the battle in array! —
 What the fathers did of old time we their sons must do to-day.

Tell us not of banks and tariffs, — cease your paltry pedler cries, —
 Shall the good State sink her honor that your gambling stocks may rise?
 Would ye barter man for cotton? — That your gains may sum up higher,
 Must we kiss the feet of Moloch, pass our children through the fire?
 Is the dollar only real? — God and truth and right a dream?
 Weighed against your lying ledgers must our manhood kick the beam?

O my God! — for that free spirit, which of old in Boston town
 Smote the Province House with terror, struck the crest of Andros down! —
 For another strong-voiced Adams in the city's streets to cry,
 " Up for God and Massachusetts! — Set your feet on Mammon's lie!
 Perish banks and perish traffic, — spin your cotton's latest pound, —
 But in Heaven's name keep your honor, — keep the heart o' the Bay State sound!"

Where 's the man for Massachusetts? — Where 's the voice to speak her free? —
 Where 's the hand to light up bonfires from her mountains to the sea?
 Beats her Pilgrim pulse no longer? — Sits she dumb in her despair? —
 Has she none to break the silence? — Has she none to do and dare?
 O my God! for one right worthy to lift up her rusted shield,
 And to plant again the Pine-Tree in her banner's tattered field!

LINES,

SUGGESTED BY A VISIT TO THE CITY
 OF WASHINGTON, IN THE 12TH
 MONTH OF 1845.

WITH a cold and wintry noon-light,
 On its roofs and steeples shed,
 Shadows weaving with the sunlight
 From the gray sky overhead,
 Broadly, vaguely, all around me, lies
 the half-built town outspread.

Through this broad street, restless
 ever,
 Ebbs and flows a human tide,
 Wave on wave a living river;
 Wealth and fashion side by side;
 Euler, idler, slave and master, in the
 same quick current glide.

Underneath yon dome, whose coping
 Springs above them, vast and tall,
 Grave men in the dust are groping
 For the largess, base and small,
 Which the hand of Power is scattering,
 crumbs which from its table fall.

Base of heart! They vilely barter
 Honor's wealth for party's place:
 Step by step on Freedom's charter
 Leaving footprints of disgrace;
 For to-day's poor pittance turning from
 the great hope of their race.

Yet, where festal lamps are throwing
 Glory round the dancer's hair,
 Gold-tressed, like an angel's, flowing
 Backward on the sunset air;
 And the low quick pulse of music beats
 its measures sweet and rare:

There to-night shall woman's glances,
Star-like, welcome give to them,
Fawning fools with shy advances
Seek to touch their garments' hem,
With the tongue of flattery glozing deeds
which God and Truth condemn.

From this glittering lie my vision
Takes a broader, sadder range,
Full before me have arisen
Other pictures dark and strange :
From the parlor to the prison must the
scene and witness change.

Hark ! the heavy gate is swinging
On its hinges, harsh and slow ;
One pale prison lamp is flinging
On a fearful group below
Such a light as leaves to terror whatso-
e'er it does not show.

Pitying God !— Is that a WOMAN
On whose wrist the shackles clash ?
Is that shriek she utters human,
Underneath the stinging lash ?
Are they MEN whose eyes of madness
from that sad procession flash ?

Still the dance goes gayly onward !
What is it to Wealth and Pride
That without the stars are looking
On a scene which earth should hide ?
That the SLAVE-SHIP lies in waiting,
rocking on Potomac's tide !

Vainly to that mean Ambition
Which, upon a rival's fall,
Winds above its old condition,
With a reptile's slimy crawl,
Shall the pleading voice of sorrow, shall
the slave in anguish call.

Vainly to the child of Fashion,
Giving to ideal woe
Graceful luxury of compassion,
Shall the stricken mourner go :
Hateful seems the earnest sorrow, beau-
tiful the hollow show !

Nay, my words are all too sweeping :
In this crowded human mart,
Feeling is not dead, but sleeping :
Man's strong will and woman's heart,
In the coming strife for Freedom, yet
shall bear their generous part.

And from yonder sunny valleys,
Southward in the distance lost,
Freedom yet shall summon allies
Worthier than the North can boast,
With the Evil by their hearth-stones
grappling at severer cost.

Now, the soul alone is willing :
Faint the heart and weak the knee ;
And as yet no lip is thrilling
With the mighty words, "Be FREE!"
Tarieth long the land's Good Angel,
but his advent is to be !

Meanwhile, turning from the revel
To the prison-cell my sight,
For intenser hate of evil,
For a keener sense of right,
Shaking off thy dust, I thank thee, City
of the Slaves, to-night !

"To thy duty now and ever !
Dream no more of rest or stay ;
Give to Freedom's great endeavor
All thou art and hast to-day" :—
Thus, above the city's murmur, saith a
Voice, or seems to say.

Ye with heart and vision gifted
To discern and love the right,
Whose worn faces have been lifted
To the slowly-growing light,
Where from Freedom's sunrise drifted
slowly back the murk of night ! —

Ye who through long years of trial
Still have held your purpose fast,
While a lengthening shade the dial
From the westering sunshine cast,
And of hope each hour's denial seemed
an echo of the last ! —

O my brothers ! O my sisters !
Would to God that ye were near,
Gazing with me down the vistas
Of a sorrow strange and drear ;
Would to God that ye were listeners to
the Voice I seem to hear !

With the storm above us driving,
With the false earth minded below, —
Who shall marvel if thus striving
We have counted friend as foe ;
Unto one another giving in the darkness
blow for blow.

Well it may be that our natures
Have grown sterner and more hard,
And the freshness of their features
Somewhat harsh and battle-scarred,
And their harmonies of feeling over-
tasked and rudely jarred.

Be it so. It should not swerve us
From a purpose true and brave;
Dearer Freedom's rugged service
Than the pastime of the slave;
Better is the storm above it than the
quiet of the grave.

Let us then, uniting, bury
All our idle feuds in dust,
And to future conflicts carry
Mutual faith and common trust;
Always he who most forgiveth in his
brother is most just.

From the eternal shadow rounding
All our sun and starlight here,
Voices of our lost ones sounding
Bid us be of heart and cheer,
Through the silence, down the spaces,
falling on the inward ear.

Know we not our dead are looking
Downward with a sad surprise,
All our strife of words rebuking
With their mild and loving eyes?
Shall we grieve the holy angels? Shall
we cloud their blessed skies?

Let us draw their mantles o'er us
Which have fallen in our way;
Let us do the work before us,
Cheerly, bravely, while we may,
 Ere the long night-silence cometh, and
with us it is not day!

LINES,

FROM A LETTER TO A YOUNG CLERICAL FRIEND.

A STRENGTH Thy service cannot tire,—
A faith which doubt can never dim,—
A heart of love, a lip of fire,—
O Freedom's God! be thou to him!

Speak through him words of power and
fear,
As through thy prophet bards of old,
And let a scornful people hear
Once more thy Sinai-thunders rolled.

For lying lips thy blessing seek,
And hands of blood are raised to Thee,
And on thy children, crushed and weak,
The oppressor plants his kneeling
knee.

Let then, O God! thy servant dare
Thy truth in all its power to tell,
Unmask the priestly thieves, and tear
The Bible from the grasp of hell!

From hollow rite and narrow span
Of law and sect by Thee released,
O, teach him that the Christian man
Is holier than the Jewish priest.

Chase back the shadows, gray and old,
Of the dead ages, from his way,
And let his hopeful eyes behold
The dawn of thy millennial day;—

That day when fettered limb and mind
Shall know the truth which maketh
free,
And he alone who loves his kind
Shall, childlike, claim the love of
Thee!

YORKTOWN.²⁹

FROM Yorktown's ruins, ranked and
still,
Two lines stretch far o'er vale and hill:
Who curbs his steed at head of one?
Hark! the low murmur: Washington!
Who bends his keen, approving glance
Where down the gorgeous line of France
Shins knightly star and plume of snow?
Thou too art victor, Rochambeau!

The earth which bears this calm array
Shook with the war-charge yesterday,
Ploughed deep with hurrying hoof and
wheel,
Shot-sown and bladed thick with steel;
October's clear and noonday sun
Paled in the breath-smoke of the gun,

And down night's double blackness fell,
Like a dropped star, the blazing shell.

Now all is hushed : the gleaming lines
Stand moveless as the neighboring
pines ;
While through them, sullen, grim, and
slow,
The conquered hosts of England go :
O'Hara's brow belies his dress,
Gay Tarleton's troop rides bannerless :
Shout, from thy fired and wasted homes,
Thy scourge, Virginia, captive comes !

Nor thou alone : with one glad voice
Let all thy sister States rejoice ;
Let Freedom, in whatever clime
She waits with sleepless eye her time,
Shouting from cave and mountain wood
Make glad her desert solitude,
While they who hunt her quail with
fear ;
The New World's chain lies broken
here !

But who are they, who, cowering, wait
Within the shattered fortress gate ?
Dark tillers of Virginia's soil,
Classed with the battle's common spoil,
With household stuffs, and fowl, and
swine,
With Indian weed and planters' wine,
With stolen beeves, and foraged corn,—
Are they not men, Virginian born ?

O, veil your faces, young and brave !
Sleep, Scammel, in thy soldier grave !
Sons of the Northland, ye who set
Stout hearts against the bayonet,
And pressed with steady footfall near
The moated battery's blazing tier,
Turn your scarred faces from the sight,
Let shame do homage to the right !

Lo ! threescore years have passed ; and
where
The Gallic timbrel stirred the air,
With Northern drum-roll, and the clear,
Wild horn-blow of the mountaineer,
While Britain grounded on that plain
The arms she might not lift again,
As abject as in that old day
The slave still toils his life away.

O, fields still green and fresh in story,
Old days of pride, old names of glory,
Old marvels of the tongue and pen,
Old thoughts which stirred the hearts of
men,
Ye spared the wrong ; and over all
Behold the avenging shadow fall !
Your world-wide honor stained with
shame, —
Your freedom's self a hollow name !

Where 's now the flag of that old war ?
Where flows its stripe ? Where burns
its star ?
Bear witness, Palo Alto's day,
Dark Vale of Palms, red Monterey,
Where Mexic Freedom, young and
weak,
Fleshes the Northern eagle's beak :
Symbol of terror and despair,
Of chains and slaves, go seek it there !

Laugh, Prussia, midst thy iron ranks !
Laugh, Russia, from thy Neva's banks !
Brave sport to see the fledgling born
Of Freedom by its parent torn !
Safe now is Speilberg's dungeon cell,
Safe drear Siberia's frozen hell :
With Slavery's flag o'er both unrolled,
What of the New World fears the Old ?

LINES,

WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF A FRIEND.

On page of thine I cannot trace
The cold and heartless common-
place, —
A statue's fixed and marble grace.

For ever as these lines I penned,
Still with the thought of thee will blend
That of some loved and common
friend, —

Who in life's desert track has made
His pilgrim tent with mine, or strayed
Beneath the same remembered shade.

And hence my pen unfettered moves
In freedom which the heart approves, —
The negligence which friendship loves

And wilt thou prize my poor gift less
For simple air and rustic dress,
And sign of haste and carelessness? —

(,) more than specious counterfeit
(Of sentiment or studied wit,
A heart like thine should value it.

Yet half I fear my gift will be
Unto thy book, if not to thee,
Of more than doubtful courtesy.

A banished name from fashion's sphere,
A lay unheard of Beauty's ear,
Forbid, disowned, — what do they
here? —

Upon my ear not all in vain
(came the sad captive's clanking chain, —
The groaning from his bed of pain.

And sadder still, I saw the woe
Which only wounded spirits know
When Pride's strong footsteps o'er
them go.

Spurned not alone in walks abroad,
But from the "temples of the Lord"
Thrust out apart, like things abhorred.

Deep as I felt, and stern and strong,
In words which Prudence smothered
long,
My soul spoke out against the wrong :

Not mine alone the task to speak
(Of comfort to the poor and weak,
And dry the tear on Sorrow's cheek;

But, mingled in the conflict warm,
To pour the fiery breath of storm
Through the harsh trumpet of Reform :

To brave Opinion's settled frown,
From ermined robe and saintly gown,
While wrestling reverenced Error down.

Founts gushed beside my pilgrim way,
Cool shadows on the greensward lay,
Flowers swung upon the bending spray.

And, broad and bright, on either hand,
Stretched the green slopes of Fairy-land,
With Hope's eternal sunbow spanned ;

Whence voices called me like the flow'rs,
Which on the listener's ear will grow,
Of forest streamlets soft and low.

And gentle eyes, which still retain
Their picture on the heart and brain,
Smiled, beckoning from that path of
pain.

In vain! — nor dream, nor rest, nor
pause
Remain for him who round him draws
The battered mail of Freedom's cause.

From youthful hopes, — from each
green spot
Of young Romance, and gentle Thought,
Where storm and tumult enter not, —

From each fair altar, where belong
The offerings Love requires of Song
In homage to her bright-eyed throng, —

With soul and strength, with heart and
hand,
I turned to Freedom's struggling band, —
To the sad Helots of our land.

What marvel then that Fame should
turn
Her notes of praise to those of scorn, —
Her gifts reclaimed, — her smiles withdrawn?

What matters it! — a few years more,
Life's surge so restless heretofore
Shall break upon the unknown shore!

In that far land shall disappear
The shadows which we follow here, —
The mist-wreaths of our atmosphere!

Before no work of mortal hand,
Of human will or strength expand
The pearl gates of the Better Land;

Alone in that great love which gave
Life to the sleeper of the grave,
Resteth the power to "seek and save."

Yet, if the spirit gazing through
The vista of the past can view
One deed to Heaven and virtue true, —

If through the wreck of wasted powers,
Of garlands wreathed from Folly's
bowers,
Of idle aims and misspent hours, —

The eye can note one sacred spot
By Pride and Self profaned not, —
A green place in the waste of thought, —

Where deed or word hath rendered less
"The sum of human wretchedness,"
And Gratitude looks forth to bless, —

The simple burst of tenderest feeling
From sad hearts worn by evil-dealing,
For blessing on the hand of healing, —

Better than Glory's pomp will be
That green and blessed spot to me, —
A palm-shade in Eternity! —

Something of Time which may invite
The purified and spiritual sight
To rest on with a calm delight.

And when the summer winds shall
sweep
With their light wings my place of sleep,
And mosses round my headstone creep, —

If still, as Freedom's rallying sign,
Upon the young heart's altars shine
The very fires they caught from mine, —

If words my lips once uttered still,
In the calm faith and steadfast will
Of other hearts, their work fulfil, —

Perchance with joy the soul may learn
These tokens, and its eye discern
The fires which on those altars burn, —

A marvellous joy that even then,
The spirit hath its life again,
In the strong hearts of mortal men.

Take, lady, then, the gift I bring,
No gay and graceful offering, —
No flower-smile of the laughing spring.

Midst the green buds of Youth's fresh
May,
With Fancy's leaf-enwoven bay,
My sad and sombre gift I lay.

And if it deepens in thy mind
A sense of suffering human-kind, —
The outcast and the spirit-blind : —

Oppressed and spoiled on every side,
By Prejudice, and Scorn, and Pride,
Life's common courtesies denied ;

Sad mothers mourning o'er their trust
Children by want and misery nursed,
Tasting life's bitter cup at first ;

If to their strong appeals which come
From fireless hearth, and crowded room,
And the close alley's noisome gloom, —

Though dark the hands upraised to the
In mute beseeching agony,
Thou lend'st thy woman's sympathy, —

Not vainly on thy gentle shrine,
Where Love, and Mirth, and Friends'
ship twine
Their varied gifts, I offer mine.

PÆAN.

1848.

Now, joy and thanks forevermore !
The dreary night has wellnigh passed,
The slumbers of the North are o'er,
The Giant stands erect at last !

More than we hoped in that dark time,
When, faint with watching, few and
worn,

We saw no welcome day-star climb
The cold gray pathway of the morn !

O weary hours ! O night of years !
What storms our darkling pathway
swept,
Where, beating back our thronging
fears,
By Faith alone our march we kept.

How jeered the scoffing crowd behind,
How mocked before the tyrant train,
As, one by one, the true and kind
Fell fainting in our path of pain !

They died, — their brave hearts break-
ing slow, —
But, self-forgetful to the last,

In words of cheer and bugle blow
Their breath upon the darkness
passed.

A mighty host, on either hand,
Stood waiting for the dawn of day
To crush like reeds our feeble band;
The morn has come, — and where
are they?

Troop after troop their line forsakes;
With peace-white banners waving
free,
And from our own the glad shout breaks,
Of Freedom and Fraternity!

Like mist before the growing light,
The hostile cohorts melt away;
Our frowning foemen of the night
Are brothers at the dawn of day!

As unto these repentant ones
We open wide our toil-worn ranks,
Along our line a murmur runs
Of song, and praise, and grateful
thanks.

Sound for the onset! — Blast on blast!
Till Slavery's minions cower and
quail:

One charge of fire shall drive them fast
Like chaff before our Northern gale!

O prisoners in your house of pain,
Dumb, toiling millions, bound and
sold,
Look! stretched o'er Southern vale and
plain,
The Lord's delivering hand behold!

Above the tyrant's pride of power,
His iron gates and guarded wall,
The bolts which shattered Shinar's
tower
Hang, smoking, for a fiercer fall.

Awake! awake! my Fatherland!
It is thy Northern light that shines;
This stirring march of Freedom's band
The storm-song of thy mountain pines.

Wake, dwellers where the day expires!
And hear, in winds that sweep your
lakes

And fan your prairies' roaring fires,
The signal-call that Freedom makes!

TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS SHIPLEY.

GONE to thy Heavenly Father's rest!
The flowers of Eden round thee blowing,
And on thine ear the murmurs blest
Of Siloa's waters softly flowing!
Beneath that Tree of Life which gives
To all the earth its healing leaves
In the white robe of angels clad,
And wandering by that sacred river,
Whose streams of holiness make glad
The city of our God forever!

Gentlest of spirits! — not for thee
Our tears are shed, our sighs are given.
Why mourn to know thou art a free
Partaker of the joys of Heaven?
Finished thy work, and kept thy faith
In Christian firmness unto death;
And beautiful as sky and earth,
When autumn's sun is downward
going
The blessed memory of thy worth
Around thy place of slumber glowing!

But woe for us! who linger still
With feebler strength and hearts less
lowly,
And minds less steadfast to the will
Of Him whose every work is holy.
For not like thine, is crucified
The spirit of our human pride:
And at the bondman's tale of woe,
And for the outcast and forsaken,
Not warm like thine, but cold and slow,
Our weaker sympathies awaken.

Darkly upon our struggling way
The storm of human hate is sweeping;
Hunted and branded, and a prey,
Our watch amidst the darkness keep-
ing,
O for that hidden strength which can
Nerve unto death the inner man!
O for thy spirit, tried and true,
And constant in the hour of trial,
Prepared to suffer, or to do,
In meekness and in self-denial.

O for that spirit, meek and mild,
Derided, spurned, yet uncomplain-
ing, —

By man deserted and reviled,
Yet faithful to its trust remaining.
Still prompt and resolute to save
From scourge and chain the hunted slave;
Unwavering in the Truth's defence,
Even where the fires of Hate were
burning.

The unquailing eye of innocence
Alone upon the oppressor turning !

O loved of thousands ! to thy grave,
Sorrowing of heart, thy brethren bore
thee.

The poor man and the rescued slave
Wept as the broken earth closed o'er
thee;

And grateful tears, like summer rain,
Quickened its dying grass again !

And there, as to some pilgrim-shrine,
Shall come the outcast and the lowly,
Of gentle deeds and words of thine
Recalling memories sweet and holy !

O for the death the righteous die !
An end, like autumn's day declining,
On human hearts, as on the sky,
With holier, tenderer beauty shining ;
As to the parting soul were given
The radiance of an opening Heaven !
As if that pure and blessed light,
From off the Eternal altar flowing,
Were bathing, in its upward flight,
The spirit to its worship going !

TO A SOUTHERN STATES-MAN.

1846.

Is this thy voice, whose treble notes of
fear
Wail in the wind ? And dost thou
shake to hear,
Actæon-like, the bay of thine own
hounds,
Spurning the leash, and leaping o'er
their bounds ?
Sore-baffled statesman ! when thy eager
hand,
With game afoot, unsnipped the hungry
pack,
To hunt down Freedom in her chosen
land,

Hadst thou no fear, that, ere long
doubling back,
These dogs of thine might snuff on
Slavery's track ?

Where's now the boast, which even
thy guarded tongue,
Cold, calm, and proud, in the teeth o'
the Senate flung,
O'er the fulfilment of thy baleful plan,
Like Satan's triumph at the fall of
man ?

How stood'st thou then, thy feet on
Freedom planting,

And pointing to the lurid heaven afar,
Whence all could see, through the
south windows slanting,

Crimson as blood, the beams of the
Lone Star !

The Fates are just ; they give us but
our own ;

Nemesis ripens what our hands have
sown.

There is an Eastern story, not unknown ;
Doubtless, to thee, of one whose mag'z
skill

Called demons up his water-jars to fill :
Deftly and silently, they did his will,
But, when the task was done, kept
pouring still,

In vain with spell and charm the wi
ard wrought,

Faster and faster were the buckles
brought,

Higher and higher rose the flood around,
Till the fiends clapped their hands
above their master drowned !
So, Carolinian, it may prove with thee,
For God still overrules man's schemes,
and takes

Craftiness in its self-set snare, and
makes

The wrath of man to praise Him. It
may be,

That the roused spirits of Democracy
May leave to freer States the same
wide door

Through which thy slave-cursed Texas
entered in,
From out the blood and fire, the wrong
and sin,

Of the stormed city and the ghastly
plain,

Beat by hot hail, and wet with bloody
rain.

A myriad-handed Aztec host may pour,
And swarthy South with pallid North
combine
Back on thyself to turn thy dark design.

LINES,

WRITTEN ON THE ADOPTION OF
PINCKNEY'S RESOLUTIONS, IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND
THE PASSAGE OF CALHOUN'S "BILL
FOR EXCLUDING PAPERS WRITTEN
OR PRINTED, TOUCHING THE SUB-
JECT OF SLAVERY FROM THE U. S.
POST-OFFICE," IN THE SENATE OF
THE UNITED STATES.

MEN of the North-land! where's the
manly spirit
Of the true-hearted and the un-
shackled gone?
Sons of old freemen, do we but inherit
Their names alone?

Is the old Pilgrim spirit quenched
within us,
Stoops the strong manhood of our
souls so low,
That Mammon's lure or Party's wile
can win us
To silence now?

Now, when our land to ruin's brink is
verging,
In God's name, let us speak while
there is time!
Now, when the padlocks for our lips
are forging,
Silence is crime!

What I shall we henceforth humbly ask
as favors
Rights all our own? In madness
shall we barter,
For treacherous peace, the freedom
Nature gave us,
God and our charter?

How shall the statesman forge his hu-
man fetters,
Herethefalse jurist human rights deny,
And, in the church, their proud and
skilled abettors
Make truth a lie?

Torture the pages of the hallowed Bi-
ble,
To sanction crime, and robbery, and
blood?
And, in Oppression's hateful service,
libel
Both man and God?

Shall our New England stand erect no
longer,
But stoop in chains upon her down-
ward way,
Thicker to gather on her limbs and
stronger
Day after day?

O no; methinks from all her wild,
green mountains,—
From valleys where her slumbering
fathers lie,—
From her blue rivers and her weeping
fountains,
And clear, cool sky,—

From her rough coast, and isles, which
hungry Ocean
Gnaws with his surges,—from the
fisher's skiff,
With white sail swaying to the billow's
motion
Round rock and cliff,—

From the free fireside of her unbought
farmer,—
From her free laborer at his loom and
wheel,—
From the brown smith-shop, where,
beneath the hammer,
Rings the red steel,—

From each and all, if God hath not
forsaken
Our land, and left us to an evil
choice,
Loud as the summer thunderbolt shall
waken
A People's voice.

Startling and stern! the Northern
winds shall bear it
Over Potomac's to St. Mary's wave;
And buried Freedom shall awake to
hear it
Within her grave.

O, let that voice go forth ! The bond-man sighing
By Santee's wave, in Mississippi's cane,
Shall feel the hope, within his bosom dying.
Revive again.

Let it go forth ! The millions who are gazing
Sadly upon us from afar, shall smile,
And unto God devout thanksgiving raising,
Bless us the while.

O for your ancient freedom, pure and holy,
For the deliverance of a groaning earth,
For the wronged captive, bleeding, crushed, and lowly,
Let it go forth !

Sons of the best of fathers ! will ye falter
With all they left ye perilled and at stake ?
Ho ! once again on Freedom's holy altar
The fire awake !

Prayer-strengthened for the trial, come together,
Put on the harness for the moral fight,
. And, with the blessing of your Heav-enly Father,
MAINTAIN THE RIGHT !

THE CURSE OF THE CHARACTER-BREAKERS.[#]

IN Westminster's royal halls,
Robed in their pontificals,
England's ancient prelates stood
For the people's right and good.

Closed around the waiting crowd,
Dark and still, like winter's cloud ;
King and council, lord and knight,
Squire and yeoman, stood in sight, —

Stood to hear the priest rehearse,
In God's name, the Church's curse,
By the tapers round them lit,
Slowly, sternly uttering it.

" Right of voice in framing laws,
Right of peers to try each cause ;
Peasant homestead, mean and small,
Sacred as the monarch's hall, —

" Whoso lays his hand on these,
England's ancient liberties, —
Whoso breaks, by word or deed,
England's vow at Runnymede, —

" Be he Prince or belted knight,
Whatsoe'er his rank or might,
If the highest, then the worst,
Let him live and die accursed.

" Thou, who to thy Church hast given
Keys alike, of hell and heaven,
Make our word and witness sure,
Let the curse we speak endure ! "

Silent, while that curse was said,
Every bare and listening head
Bowed in reverent awe, and then
All the people said, Amen !

Seven times the bells have tolled,
For the centuries gray and old,
Since that stoled and mitted band
Cursed the tyrants of their land.

Since the priesthood, like a tower,
Stood between the poor and power :
And the wronged and trodden down
Blessed the abbot's shaven crown.

Gone, thank God, their wizard spell,
Lost, their keys of heaven and hell ;
Yet I sigh for men as bold
As those bearded priests of old.

Now, too oft the priesthood wait
At the threshold of the state, —
Waiting for the beck and nod
Of its power as law and God.

Fraud exults, while solemn words
Sanctify his stolen hoards ;
Slavery laughs, while ghostly lips
Bless his manacles and whips.

Not on them the poor rely,
Not to them looks liberty,
Who with fawning falsehood cower
To the wrong, when clothed with power.

O, to see them meanly cling,
Round the master, round the king,
Sported with, and sold and bought, —
Pitiful sight is not !

Tell me not that this must be :
God's true priest is always free ;
Free, the needed truth to speak,
Right the wronged, and raise the weak.

Not to fawn on wealth and state,
Leaving Lazarus at the gate, —
Not to peddle creeds like wares, —
Not to mutter hireling prayers, —

Nor to paint the new life's bliss
On the sable ground of this, —
Golden streets for idle knave,
Sabbath rest for weary slave !

Not for words and works like these,
Priest of God, thy mission is ;
But to make earth's desert glad,
In its Eden greenness clad :

And to level manhood bring
Lord and peasant, serf and king ;
And the Christ of God to find
In the humblest of thy kind !

Thine to work as well as pray,
Clearing thorny wrongs away ;
Plucking up the weeds of sin, —
Letting heaven's warm sunshine in, —

Watching on the hills of Faith ;
Listening what the spirit saith,
Of the dim-seen light afar,
Growing like a nearing star.

God's interpreter art thou,
To the waiting ones below ;
'Twixt them and its light midway
Heralding the better day, —

Catching gleams of temple spires,
Hearing notes of angel choirs,
Where, as yet unseen of them,
Comes the New Jerusalem !

Like the seer of Patmos gazing,
On the glory downward blazing ;
Till upon Earth's grateful sod
Rests the City of our God !

THE SLAVES OF MARTINIQUE.

SUGGESTED BY A DAGUERREOTYPE FROM A FRENCH ENGRAVING.

BEAMS of noon, like burning lances, through the tree-tops flash and glisten,
As she stands before her lover, with raised face to look and listen.

Dark, but comely, like the maiden in the ancient Jewish song :
Scarcely has the toil of task-fields done her graceful beauty wrong.

He, the strong one and the manly, with the vassal's garb and hue,
Holding still his spirit's birthright, to his higher nature true ;

Hiding deep the strengthening purpose of a freeman in his heart,
As the greegee holds his Fetich from the white man's gaze apart.

Ever foremost of his comrades, when the driver's morning horn
Calls away to stifling mill-house, to the fields of cane and corn :

Fall the keen and burning lashes never on his back or limb ;
Scarce with look or word of censure, turns the driver unto him.

Yet, his brow is always thoughtful, and his eye is hard and stern;
Slavery's last and humblest lesson he has never deigned to learn.

And, at evening, when his comrades dance before their master's door,
Folding arms and knitting forehead, stands he silent evermore.

God be praised for every instinct which rebels against a lot
Where the brute survives the human, and man's upright form is not!

As the serpent-like bejuco winds his spiral fold on fold
Round the tall and stately ceiba, till it withers in his hold;—

Slow decays the forest monarch, closer girds the fell embrace,
Till the tree is seen no longer, and the vine is in its place,—

So a base and bestial nature round the vassal's manhood twines,
And the spirit wastes beneath it, like the ceiba choked with vines.

God is Love, saith the Evangel; and our world of woe and sin
Is made light and happy only when a Love is shining in.

Ye whose lives are free as sunshine, finding, whereso'er ye roam,
Smiles of welcome, looks of kindness, making all the world like home;

In the veins of whose affections kindred blood is but a part,
Of one kindly current throbbing from the universal heart;

Can ye know the deeper meaning of a love in Slavery nursed,
Last flower of a lost Eden, blooming in that Soil accursed?

Love of Home, and Love of Woman!—dear to all, but doubly dear
To the heart whose pulses elsewhere measure only hate and fear.

All around the desert circles, underneath a brazen sky,
Only one green spot remaining where the dew is never dry'

From the horror of that desert, from its atmosphere of hell,
Turns the fainting spirit thither, as the diver seeks his bell.

'T is the fervid tropic noontime; faint and low the sea-waves beat;
Hazy rise the inland mountains through the glimmer of the heat,—

Where, through mingled leaves and blossoms, arrowy sunbeams flash and glisten
Speaks her lover to the slave girl, and she lifts her head to listen:—

"We shall live as slaves no longer! Freedom's hour is close at hand!
Rocks her bark upon the waters, rests the boat upon the strand!"

"I have seen the Haytien Captain; I have seen his swarthy crew,
Haters of the pallid faces, to their race and color true.

"They have sworn to wait our coming till the night has passed its noon,
And the gray and darkening waters roll above the sunken moon!"

O the blessed hope of freedom ! how with joy and glad surprise,
For an instant throbs her bosom, for an instant beam her eyes !

But she looks across the valley, where her mother's hut is seen,
Through the snowy bloom of coffee, and the lemon-leaves so green.

And she answers, sad and earnest : ' It were wrong for thee to stay ;
God hath heard thy prayer for freedom, and his finger points the way.

" Well I know with what endurance, for the sake of me and mine,
Thou hast borne too long a burthen never meant for souls like thine.

" Go ; and at the hour of midnight, when our last farewell is o'er,
Kneeling on our place of parting, I will bless thee from the shore.

" But for me, my mother, lying on her sick-bed all the day,
Lifts her weary head to watch me, coming through the twilight gray.

" Should I leave her sick and helpless, even freedom, shared with thee,
Would be sadder far than bondage, lonely toil, and stripes to me.

" For my heart would die within me, and my brain would soon be wild ;
I should hear my mother calling through the twilight for her child ! "

Blazing upward from the ocean, shines the sun of morning-time,
Through the coffee-trees in blossom, and green hedges of the lime.

Side by side amidst the slave-gang, toil the lover and the maid ;
Wherefore looks he o'er the waters, leaning forward on his spade ?

Sadly looking, deeply sighs he : 't is the Haytien's sail he sees,
Like a white cloud of the mountains, driven seaward by the breeze !

But his arm a light hand presses, and he hears a low voice call :
" Vale of Slavery, hope of Freedom, Love is mightier than all.

THE CRISIS.

WRITTEN ON LEARNING THE TERMS OF THE TREATY WITH MEXICO.

Across the Stony Mountains, o'er the desert's drouth and sand,
The circles of our empire touch the Western Ocean's strand ;
From slumberous Timpanogos, to Gila, wild and free,
Flowing down from Nuevo-Leon to California's sea ;
And from the mountains of the East, to Santa Rosa's shore,
The eagles of Mexitii shall beat the air no more.

O Vale of Rio Bravo ! Let thy simple children weep ;
Close watch about their holy fire let maids of Pecos keep ;
Let Taos send her cry across Sierra Madre's pines,
And Algodones toll her bells amidst her corn and vines ;

VOICES OF FREEDOM.

For lo ! the pale land-seekers come, with eager eyes of gain,
Wide scattering, like the bison herds on broad Salada's plain.

Let Sacramento's herdsmen heed what sound the winds bring down
Of footsteps on the crisping snow, from cold Nevada's crown !
Full hot and fast the Saxon rides, with rein of travel slack,
And, bending o'er his saddle, leaves the sunrise at his back :
By many a lonely river, and gorge of fir and pine,
On many a wintry hill-top, his nightly camp-fires shine.

O countrymen and brothers ! that land of lake and plain,
Of salt wastes alternating with valleys fat with grain ;
Of mountains white with winter, looking downward, cold, serene,
On their feet with spring-vines tangled and lapped in softest green ;
Swift through whose black volcanic gates, o'er many a sunny vale,
Wind-like the Arapahoe sweeps the bison's dusty trail !

Great spaces yet untravelled, great lakes whose mystic shores
The Saxon rifle never heard, nor dip of Saxon oars ;
Great herds that wander all unwatched, wild steeds that none have tame'd.
Strange fish in unknown streams, and birds the Saxon never named :
Deep mines, dark mountain crucibles, where Nature's chemic powers
Work out the Great Designer's will ; — all these ye say are ours !

Forever ours ! for good or ill, on us the burden lies ;
God's balance, watched by angels, is hung across the skies.
Shall Justice, Truth, and Freedom turn the poised and tremblin' scales ?
Or shall the Evil triumph, and robber Wrong prevail ?
Shall the broad land o'er which our flag in starry splendor waves,
Forego through us its freedom, and bear the tread of slaves ?

The day is breaking in the East of which the prophets told
And brightens up the sky of Time the Christian Age of Gold :
Old Might to Right is yielding, battle blade to clerky roun',
Earth's monarchs are her peoples, and her serfs stand up as men ;
The isles rejoice together, in a day are nations born,
And the slave walks free in Tunis, and by Stamboul's Golden Horn !

Is this, O countrymen of mine ! a day for us to sow
The soil of new-gained empire with slavery's seeds of woe ?
To feed with our fresh life-blood the Old World's cast-off crime,
Dropped, like some monstrous early birth, from the tired lap of Time ?
To run anew the evil race the old lost nations ran,
And die like them of unbelief of God, and wrong of man ?

Great Heaven ! Is this our mission ? End in this the prayers and tears,
The toil, the strife, the watchings of our younger, better years ?
Still as the Old World rolls in light, shall ours in shadow turn,
A beamless Chaos, cursed of God, through outer darkness borne ?
Where the far nations looked for light, a blackness in the air ?
Where for words of hope they listened, the long wail of despair ?

The Crisis presses on us ; face to face with us it stands,
With solemn lips of question, like the Sphinx in Egypt's sands !

THE CRISIS.

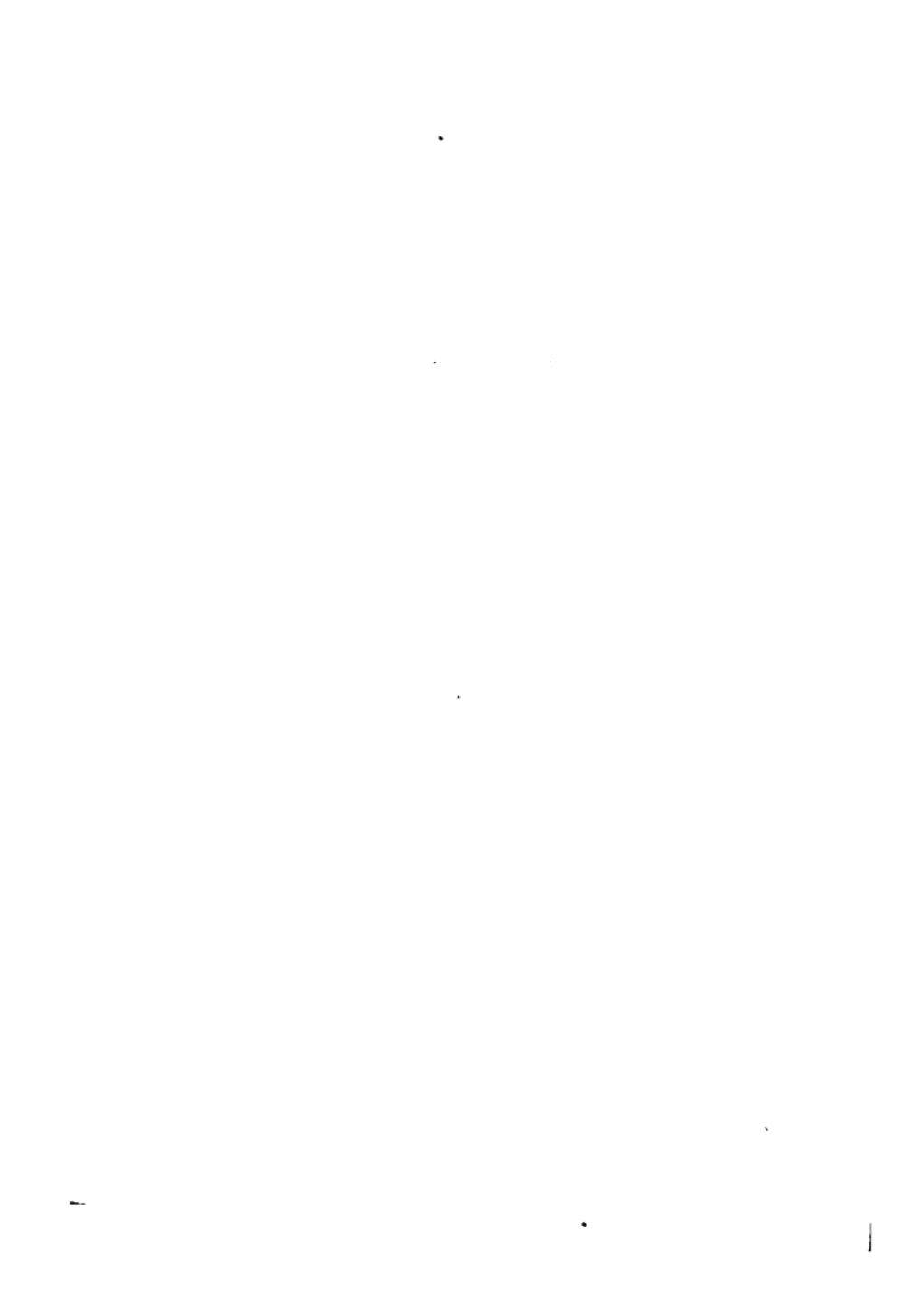
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This day we fashion Destiny, our web of Fate we spin ;
This day for all hereafter choose we holiness or sin ;
Even now from starry Gerizim, or Ebal's cloudy crown,
We call the dews of blessing or the bolts of cursing down !

By all for which the martyrs bore their agony and shame ;
By all the warning words of truth with which the prophets came
By the Future which awaits us ; by all the hopes which cast
Their faint and trembling beams across the blackness of the Past ;
And by the blessed thought of Him who for Earth's freedom died,
O my people ! O my brothers ! let us choose the righteous side.

So shall the Northern pioneer go joyful on his way :
To wed Penobscot's waters to San Francisco's bay ;
To make the rugged places smooth, and sow the vales with grain ;
And bear, with Liberty and Law, the Bible in his train :
The mighty West shall bless the East, and sea shall answer sea,
And mountain unto mountain call, PRAISE GOD, FOR WE ARE FREE !

MISCELLANEOUS.



MISCELLANEOUS.

THE KNIGHT OF ST. JOHN.

ERK down yon blue Carpathian hills
The sun shall sink again,
Farewell to life and all its ills,
Farewell to cell and chain.

These prison shades are dark and cold,—
But, darker far than they,
The shadow of a sorrow old
Is on my heart alway.

For since the day when Warkworth wood
Closed o'er my steed and I,
An alien from my name and blood,
A weed cast out to die,—

When, looking back in sunset light,
I saw her turret gleam,
And from its casement, far and white,
Her sign of farewell stream,

Like one who, from some desert shore,
Doth home's green isles descry,
And, vainly longing, gazes o'er
The waste of wave and sky;

So from the desert of my fate
I gaze across the past;
Forever on life's dial-plate
The shade is backward cast!

I've wandered wide from shore to shore,
I've knelt at many a shrine;
And bowed me to the rocky floor
Where Bethlehem's tapers shine;

And by the Holy Sepulchre
I've pledged my knightly sword
To Christ, his blessed Church, and her,
The Mother of our Lord.

O, vain the vow, and vain the strife!
How vain do all things seem!
My soul is in the past, and life
To-day is but a dream!

In vain the penance strange and long,
And hard for flesh to bear;
The prayer, the fasting, and the thong
And sackcloth shirt of hair.

The eyes of memory will not sleep,—
Its ears are open still;
And vigils with the past they keep
Against my feeble will.

And still the loves and joys of old
Do evermore uprise;
I see the flow of locks of gold,
The shine of loving eyes!

Ah me! upon another's breast
Those golden locks recline;
I see upon another rest
The glance that once was mine.

"O faithless priest!—O perfured
knight!"
I hear the Master cry;
"Shut out the vision from thy sight,
Let Earth and Nature die."

"The Church of God is now thy spouse,
And thou the bridegroom art;
Then let the burden of thy vows
Crush down thy human heart!"

In vain! This heart its grief must know,
Till life itself hath ceased.
And falls beneath the selfsame blow
The lover and the priest!

O pitying Mother ! souls of light,
And saints, and martyrs old !
Pray for a weak and sinful knight,
A suffering man uphold.

Then let the Paynim work his will,
And death unbind my chain,
Ere down yon blue Carpathian hill
The sun shall fall again.

THE HOLY LAND.

FROM LAMARTINE.

I HAVE not felt, o'er seas of sand,
The rocking of the desert bark ;
Nor laved at Hebron's fount my hand,
By Hebron's palm-trees cool and dark ;
Nor pitched my tent at even-fall,
On dust where Job of old has lain,
Nor dreamed beneath its canvas wall,
The dream of Jacob o'er again.

One vast world-page remains unread ;
How shine the stars in Chaldea's sky,
How sounds the reverent pilgrim's tread,
How beats the heart with God so nigh ! —
How round gray arch and column lone
The spirit of the old time broods,
And sighs in all the winds that moan
Along the sandy solitudes !

In thy tall cedars, Lebanon,
I have not heard the nations' cries,
Nor seen thy eagles stooping down
Where buried Tyre in ruin lies.
The Christian's prayer I have not said
In Tadmor's temples of decay,
Nor startled, with my dreary tread,
The waste where Memnon's empire lay.

Nor have I, from thy hallowed tide,
O Jordan ! heard the low lament,
Like that sad wail along thy side
Which Israel's mournful prophet sent !
Nor thrilled within that grotto lone
Where, deep in night, the Bard of Kings

Felt hands of fire direct his own,
And sweep for God the conscious strings.

I have not climbed to Olivet,
Nor laid me where my Saviour lay,
And left his trace of tears as yet
By angel eyes unwept away ;
Nor watched, at midnight's solemn time,
The garden where his prayer and groan,
Wrung by his sorrow and our crime,
Rose to One listening ear alone.

I have not kissed the rock-hewn grot
Where in his Mother's arms he lay
Nor knelt upon the sacred spot
Where last his footsteps pressed the clay ;
Nor looked on that sad mountain head,
Nor smote my sinful breast, where wide
His arms to fold the world he spread,
And bowed his head to bless — and died !

PALESTINE.

BLESSED land of Judaea ! thrice hallowed
of song,
Where the holiest of memories pilgrim-like throng ;
In the shade of thy palms, by the shores
of thy sea,
On the hills of thy beauty, my heart is with thee.

With the eye of a spirit I look on that shore,
Where pilgrim and prophet have lingered before ;
With the glide of a spirit I traverse the sod
Made bright by the steps of the angels of God.

Blue sea of the hills ! — in my spirit I hear
Thy waters, Genesaret, chime on my ear ;
Where the Lowly and Just with the people sat down,
And thy spray on the dust of his sandals was thrown.

Beyond are Bethulia's mountains of green,
And the desolate hills of the wild Gadarene ;
And I pause on the goat-crags of Tabor to see
The gleam of thy waters, O dark Galilee !

Hark, a sound in the valley ! where, swollen and strong,
Thy river, O Kishon, is sweeping along ;
Where the Canaanite strove with Jehovah in vain,
And thy torrent grew dark with the blood of the slain.

There down from his mountains stern Zebulon came,
And Naphtali's stag, with his eyeballs of flame,
And the chariots of Jabin rolled harmlessly on,
For the arm of the Lord was Abinam's son !

There sleep the still rocks and the caverns which rang
To the song which the beautiful prophetess sang,
When the princes of Issachar stood by her side,
And the shout of a host in its triumph replied.

Lo, Bethlehem's hill-site before me is seen,
With the mountains around, and the valleys between ;
There rested the shepherds of Judah, and there
The song of the angels rose sweet on the air.

And Bethany's palm-trees in beauty still throw
Their shadows at noon on the ruins below :
But where are the sisters who hastened to greet
The lowly Redeemer, and sit at his feet ?

I tread where the TWELVE in their wayfaring trod ;
I stand where they stood with the CHOSEN OF GOD, —
Where his blessing was heard and his lessons were taught,
Where the blind were restored and the healing was wrought.

O, here with his flock the sad Wanderer came, —
These hills he toiled over in grief are the same, —
The founts where he drank by the wayside still flow,
And the same airs are blowing which breathed on his brow !

And throned on her hills sits Jerusalem yet,
But with dust on her forehead, and chains on her feet :
For the crown of her pride to the mocker hath gone,
And the holy Shechinah is dark where it shone.

But wherefore this dream of the earthly abode
Of Humanity clothed in the brightness of God ?
Were my spirit but turned from the outward and dim,
It could gaze, even now, on the presence of Him !

Not in clouds and in terrors, but gentle as when,
In love and in meekness, He moved among men :
And the voice which breathed peace to the waves of the sea
In the hush of my spirit would whisper to me !

And what if my feet may not tread where He stood,
Nor my ears hear the dashing of Galilee's flood,
Nor my eyes see the cross which He bowed him to bear,
Nor my knees press Gethsemane's garden of prayer.

Yet, Loved of the Father, thy Spirit is
near
To the meek, and the lowly, and peni-
tent here ;
And the voice of thy love is the same
even now
As at Bethany's tomb or on Olivet's
brow.

O, the outward hath gone ! — but in
glory and power,
The SPIRIT surviveth the things of an
hour ;
Unchanged, undecaying, its Pentecost
flame
On the heart's secret altar is burning
the same !

EZEKIEL.

CHAPTER XXXIII. 30-33.

THEY hear thee not, O God ! nor see ;
Beneath thy rod they mock at thee ;
The princes of our ancient line
Lie drunken with Assyrian wine ;
The priests around thy altar speak
The false words which their hearers seek ;
And hymns which Chaldea's wanton
maids
Have sung in Dura's idol-shades
Are with the Levites' chant ascending,
With Zion's holiest anthems blending !

On Israel's bleeding bosom set,
The heathen heel is crushing yet ;
The towers upon our holy hill
Echo Chaldean footsteps still.
Our wasted shrines, — who weeps for
them ?
Who mourneth for Jerusalem ?
Who turneth from his gains away ?
Whose knee with mine is bowed to pray ?
Who, leaving feast and purpling cup,
Takes Zion's lamentation up ?

A sad and thoughtful youth, I went
With Israel's early banishment ;
And where the sullen Chebar crept,
The ritual of my fathers kept.
The water for the trench I drew,
The firstling of the flock I slew,

And, standing at the altar's side,
I shared the Levites' lingering pride,
That still, amidst her mocking foes,
The smoke of Zion's offering rose.

In sudden whirlwind, cloud and flame
The Spirit of the Highest came !
Before mine eyes a vision passed,
A glory terrible and vast ;
With dreadful eyes of living things,
And sounding sweep of angel wings,
With circling light and sapphire throne,
And flame-like form of One thereon,
And voice of that dread Likeness sent
Down from the crystal firmament !

The burden of a prophet's power
Fell on me in that fearful hour ;
From off unutterable woes
The curtain of the future rose ;
I saw far down the coming time
The fiery chastisement of crime ;
With noise of mingling hosts, and jar
Of falling towers and shouts of war,
I saw the nations rise and fall,
Like fire-gleams on my tent's white wall.

In dream and trance, I saw the slain
Of Egypt heaped like harvest grain,
I saw the walls of sea-born Tyre
Swept over by the spoiler's fire :
And heard the low, expiring moan
Of Edom on his rocky throne ;
And, woe is me ! the wild lament
From Zion's desolation sent ;
And felt within my heart each blow
Which laid her holy places low.

In bonds and sorrow, day by day,
Before the pictured tile I lay ;
And there, as in a mirror, saw
The coming of Assyria's war, —
Her swarthy lines of spearmen pass
Like locusts through Bethhoron's grass ;
I saw them draw their stormy hem
Of battle round Jerusalem ;
And, listening, heard the Hebrew wail
Blend with the victor-trump of Baal !

Who trembled at my warning word ?
Who owned the prophet of the Lord ?
How mocked the rude, — how scoffed
the vile, —
How stung the Levites' scornful smile !

As o'er my spirit, dark and slow,
The shadow crept of Israel's woe,
As if the angel's mournful roll
Had left its record on my soul,
And traced in lines of darkness there
The picture of its great despair !

Yet ever at the hour I feel
My lips in prophecy unseal.
Prince, priest, and Levite gather near,
And Salem's daughters haste to hear,
On Chebar's waste and alien shore,
The harp of Judah swept once more.
They listen, as in Babel's throng
The Chaldeans to the dancer's song,
Or wild sabbeka's nightly play,
As careless and as vain as they.

—
And thus, O Prophet-bard of old,
Hast thou thy tale of sorrow told !
The same which earth's unwelcome
seers

I have felt in all succeeding years.
Sport of the changeful multitude,
Nor calmly heard nor understood,
Their song has seemed a trick of art,
Their warnings but the actor's part.
With bonds, and scorn, and evil will,
The world requites its prophets still.

So was it when the Holy One
The garments of the flesh put on !
Men followed where the Highest led
For common gifts of daily bread,
And gross of ear, of vision dim,
Owned not the godlike power of him.
Vain as a dreamer's words to them
His wail above Jerusalem,
And meaningless the watch he kept
Through which his weak disciples slept.

Yet shrink not thou, whoe'er thou art,
For God's great purpose set apart,
Before whose far-discrimining eyes,
The Future as the Present lies !
Beyond a narrow-bounded age
Stretches thy prophet-heritage,
Through Heaven's dim spaces angel-trod,
Through arches round the throne of
God !
Thy audience, worlds ! — all Time to be
The witness of the Truth in thee !

THE WIFE OF MANOAH TO HER HUSBAND.

AGAINST the sunset's glowing wall
The city towers rise black and tall,
Where Zorah on its rocky height,
Stands like an armed man in the light.

Down Eshtael's vales of ripened grain
Falls like a cloud the night amain,
And up the hillsides climbing slow
The barley reapers homeward go.

Look, dearest ! how our fair child's head
The sunset light hath hallowed,
Where at this olive's foot he lies,
Uplooking to the tranquil skies.

O, while beneath the fervent heat
Thy sickle swept the bearded wheat,
I've watched, with mingled joy and
dread,
Our child upon his grassy bed.

Joy, which the mother feels alone
Whose morning hope like mine had
flown,
When to her bosom, over blessed,
A dearer life than hers is pressed.

Dread, for the future dark and still,
Which shapes our dear one to its will ;
Forever in his large calm eyes,
I read a tale of sacrifice. —

The same foreboding awe I felt
When at the altar's side we knelt,
And he, who as a pilgrim came,
Rose, winged and glorious, through the
flame.

I slept not, though the wild bees made
A dreamlike murmuring in the shade,
And on me the warm-fingered hours
Pressed with the drowsy smell of flow-
ers.

Before me, in a vision, rose
The hosts of Israel's scornful foes, —
Rank over rank, helm, shield, and spear
Glittered in noon's hot atmosphere.

I heard their boast, and bitter word,
Their mockery of the Hebrew's Lord,
I saw their hands his ark assail,
Their feet profane his holy veil.

No angel down the blue space spoke,
No thunder from the still sky broke ;
But in their midst, in power and awe,
Like God's waked wrath, OUR CHILD I
saw !

A child no more ! — harsh-browed and
strong,
He towered a giant in the throng,
And down his shoulders, broad and
bare,
Swept the black terror of his hair.

He raised his arm ; he smote amain ;
As round the reaper falls the grain,
So the dark host around him fell,
So sank the foes of Israel !

Again I looked. In sunlight shone
The towers and domes of Askelon.
Priest, warrior, slave, a mighty crowd,
Within her idol temple bowed.

Yet one knelt not ; stark, gaunt, and
blind,
His arms the massive pillars twined, —
An eyeless captive, strong with hate,
He stood there like an evil Fate.

The red shrines smoked, — the trum-
pets pealed :
He stooped, — the giant columns
reeled, —
Reeled tower and fane, sank arch and
wall,
And the thick dust-cloud closed o'er all !

Above the shriek, the crash, the groan
Of the fallen pride of Askelon,
I heard, sheer down the echoing sky,
A voice as of an angel cry, —

The voice of him, who at our side
Sat through the golden eventide, —
Of him who, on thy altar's blaze,
Rose fire-winged, with his song of
praise.

" Rejoice o'er Israel's broken chain,
Gray mother of the mighty slain !
Rejoice ! " it cried, " he vanquisheth !
The strong in life is strong in death !

" To him shall Zorah's daughters raise
Through coming years their hymns of
praise,

And gray old men at evening tell
Of all he wrought for Israel.

" And they who sing and they who hear,
Alike shall hold thy memory dear,
And pour their blessings on thy head,
O mother of the mighty dead ! "

It ceased ; and though a sound I heard
As if great wings the still air stirred,
I only saw the barley sheaves
And hills half hid by olive leaves.

I bowed my face, in awe and fear,
On the dear child who slumbered near.
" With me, as with my only son,
O God," I said, " THY WILL BE
DONE ! " —

THE CITIES OF THE PLAIN.

" GET ye up from the wrath of God's
terrible day !
Ungirded, unsandalled, arise and away !
'T is the vintage of blood, 't is the ful-
ness of time,
And vengeance shall gather the harvest
of crime ! "

The warning was spoken : the right-
eous had gone,
And the proud ones of Sodom were
feasting alone ;
All gay was the banquet ; the revel was
long,
With the pouring of wine and the
breathing of song.

" T was an evening of beauty ; the air was
perfume,
The earth was all greenness, the trees
were all bloom :
And softly the delicate viol was heard,
Like the murmur of love or the notes
of a bird.

And beautiful maidens moved down
in the dance,
With the magic of motion and sunshines
of glance ;
And white arms wreathed lightly, and
tresses fell free
As the plumage of birds in some trop-
ical tree.

Where the shrines of foul idols were
lighted on high,
And wantonness tempted the lust of
the eye ;
Midst rites of obscenity, strange,
loathsome, abhorred,
The blasphemer scoffed at the name of
the Lord.

Hark ! the growl of the thunder, — the
quaking of earth !
Woe, woe to the worship, and woe to
the mirth !
The black sky has opened, — there's
flame in the air, —
The red arm of vengeance is lifted and
bare !

Then the shriek of the dying rose wild
where the song
And the low tone of love had been
whispered along ;
For the fierce flames went lightly o'er
palace and bower,
Like the red tongues of demons, to blast
and devour !

Down, — down on the fallen the red
ruin rained,
And the reveller sank with his wine-
cup undrained ;
The foot of the dancer, the music's loved
thrill,
And the shout and the laughter grew
suddenly still.

The last throb of anguish was fearfully
given ;
The last eye glared forth in its madness
on Heaven !
The last groan of horror rose wildly and
vain,
And death brooded over the pride of
the Plain !

THE CRUCIFIXION.

SUNLIGHT upon Judaea's hills !
And on the waves of Galilee, —
On Jordan's stream, and on the rills
That feed the dead and sleeping sea !

Most freshly from the green woodsprings
The light breeze on its scented wings ;
And gayly quiver in the sun
The cedar tops of Lebanon !

A few more hours, — a change hath
come !
The sky is dark without a cloud !
The shouts of wrath and joy are dumb,
And proud knees unto earth are
bowed.

A change is on the hill of Death,
The helmed watchers pant for breath,
And turn with wild and maniac eyes
From the dark scene of sacrifice !

That Sacrifice ! — the death of Him, —
The High and ever Holy One !
Well may the conscious Heaven grow
dim,

And blacken the beholding Sun.
The wonted light hath fled away,
Night settles on the middle day,
And earthquake from his caverned bed
Is waking with a thrill of dread !

The dead are waking underneath !
Their prison door is rent away !
And, ghastly with the seal of death,
They wander in the eye of day !
The temple of the Cherubim,
The House of God is cold and dim ;
A curse is on its trembling walls,
Its mighty veil asunder falls !

Well may the cavern-depths of Earth
Be shaken, and her mountains nod ;
Well may the sheeted dead come forth
To gaze upon a suffering God !
Well may the temple-shrine grow dim,
And shadows veil the Cherubim,
When He, the chosen one of Heaven,
A sacrifice for guilt is given !

And shall the sinful heart, alone,
Behold unmoved the atoning hour,
When Nature trembles on her throne,
And Death resigns his iron power ?
O, shall the heart, — whose sinfulness
Gave keenness to his sore distress,
And added to his tears of blood, —
Refuse its trembling gratitude !

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

WHERE Time the measure of his hours
By changeful bud and blossom keeps,
And, like a young bride crowned with
flowers,

Fair Shiraz in her garden sleeps;

Where, to her poet's turban stone,
The Spring her gift of flowers imparts,
Less sweet than those his thoughts have
sown

In the warm soil of Persian hearts:

There sat the stranger, where the shade
Of scattered date-trees thinly lay,
While in the hot clear heaven delayed
The long and still and weary day.

Strange trees and fruits above him hung,
Strange odors filled the sultry air,
Strange birds upon the branches swung,
Strange insect voices murmured there.

And strange bright blossoms shone
around,
Turned sunward from the shadowy
bowers,
As if the Gheber's soul had found
A fitting home in Iran's flowers.

Whate'er he saw, whate'er he heard,
Awakened feelings new and sad,—
No Christian garb, nor Christian word,
Nor church with Sabbath-bell chimes
glad,

But Moslem graves, with turban stones,
And mosque-spires gleaming white,
in view,
And graybeard Mollahs in low tones
Chanting their Koran servicethrough.

The flowers which smiled on either
hand,
Like tempting fiends, were such as
they

Which once, o'er all that Eastern land,
As gifts on demon altars lay.

As if the burning eye of Baal
The servant of his Conqueror knew,
From skies which knew no cloudy veil,
The Sun's hot glances smote him
through.

"Ah me!" the lonely stranger said,
"The hope which led my footstepson,
And light from heaven around them
shed,
O'er weary wave and waste, is gone!

"Where are the harvest fields all white,
For Truth to thrust her sickle in?
Where flock the souls, like doves in
flight,
From the dark hiding-place of sin?

"A silent horror broods o'er all,—
The burden of a hateful spell,—
The very flowers around recall
The hoary magi's rites of hell!

"And what am I, o'er such a land
The banner of the Cross to bear?
Dear Lord, uphold me with thy hand,
Thy strength with human weakness
share!"

He ceased; for at his very feet
In mild rebuke a floweret smiled,—
How thrilled his sinking heart to greet
The Star-flower of the Virgin's child!

Sown by some wandering Frank, it
drew
Its life from alien air and earth,
And told to Paynim sun and dew
The story of the Saviour's birth.

From scorching beams, in kindly mood,
The Persian plants its beauty screened,
And on its pagan sisterhood;
In love, the Christian floweret leaned.

With tears of joy the wanderer felt
The darkness of his long despair
Before that hallowed symbol melt,
Which God's dear love had nurtured
there.

From Nature's face, that simple flower
The lines of sin and sadness swept;
And Magian pile and Paynim bower
In peace like that of Eden slept.

Each Moslem tomb, and cypress old,
Looked holy through the sunset air.
And, angel-like, the Muezzin told
From tower and mosque the hour of
prayer.

With cheerful steps, the morrow's dawn
 From Shiraz saw the stranger part ;
 The Star-flower of the Virgin-Born
 Still blooming in his hopeful heart !

HYMNS.

FROM THE FRENCH OF LAMARTINE.

ONE hymn more, O my lyre !
 Praise to the God above,
 Of joy and life and love,
 Sweeping its strings of fire !

O, who the speed of bird and wind
 And sunbeam's glance will lend to
 me,
 That, soaring upward, I may find
 My resting-place and home in
 Thee ? —

Thou, whom my soul, midst doubt and
 gloom,
 Adoreth with a fervent flame, —
 Mysterious spirit ! unto whom
 Pertain nor sign nor name !

Swiftly my lyre's soft murmurs go,
 Up from the cold and joyless earth,
 Back to the God who bade them flow,
 Whose moving spirit sent them forth.
 But as for me, O God ! for me,
 The lowly creature of thy will,
 Lingering and sad, I sigh to thee,
 An earth-bound pilgrim still !

Was not my spirit born to shine
 Where yonder stars and suns are glow-
 ing ?

To breathe with them the light divine
 From God's own holy altar flowing ?
 To be, indeed, whate'er the soul
 In dreams hath thirsted for so long, —
 A portion of Heaven's glorious whole
 Of loveliness and song ?

O, watchers of the stars at night,
 Who breathe their fire, as we the air, —
 Suns, thunders, stars, and rays of light,
 O, say, is He, the Eternal, there ?
 Bend there around his awful throne
 Theseraph's glance, the angel's knee ?
 Or are thy inmost depths his own,
 O wild and mighty sea ?

Thoughts of my soul, how swift ye go !
 Swift as the eagle's glance of fire,
 Or arrows from the archer's bow,
 To the far aim of your desire !
 Thought after thought, ye thronging rise,
 Like spring-doves from the startled
 wood,
 Bearing like them your sacrifice
 Of music unto God !

And shall these thoughts of joy and
 love
 Come back again no more to me ? —
 Returning like the Patriarch's dove
 Wing-weary from the eternal sea,
 To bear within my longing arms
 The promise-bough of kindlier skies,
 Plucked from the green, immortal palms
 Which shadow Paradise ?

All-moving spirit ! — freely forth
 At thy command the strong wind goes ;
 Its errand to the passive earth,
 Nor art can stay, nor strength oppose,
 Until it folds its weary wing
 Once more within the hand divine :
 So, weary from its wandering,
 My spirit turns to thine !

Child of the sea, the mountain stream,
 From its dark caverns, hurries on,
 Ceaseless, by night and morning's beam,
 By evening's star and noon tide's sun,
 Until at last it sinks to rest,
 O'erwearied, in the waiting sea,
 And moans upon its mother's breast, —
 So turns my soul to Thee !

O Thou who bid'st the torrent flow,
 Who lendest wings unto the wind, —
 Mover of all things ! where art thou ?
 O, whither shall I go to find
 The secret of thy resting-place ?
 Is there no holy wing for me,
 That, soaring, I may search the space
 Of highest heaven for Thee ?

O, would I were as free to rise
 As leaves on autumn's whirlwind
 borne, —
 The arrowy light of sunset skies,
 Or sound, or ray, or star of morn,

Which melts in heaven at twilight's close,
Or aught which soars unchecked and free
Through Earth and Heaven; that I might lose
Myself in finding Thee !

WHEN THE BREATH DIVINE is flowing,
Zephyr-like o'er all things going,
And, as the touch of viewless fingers,
Softly on my soul it lingers,
Open to a breath the lightest,
Conscious of a touch the slightest,—
As some calm, still lake, whereon
Sinks the snowy-bosomed swan,
And the glistening water-rings
Circle round her moving wings :
When my upward gaze is turning
Where the stars of heaven are burning
Through the deep and dark abyss,
Flowers of midnight's wilderness,
Blowing with the evening's breath
Sweetly in their Maker's path :

When the breaking day is flushing
All the east, and light is gushing
Upward through the horizon's haze,
Sheaf-like, with its thousand rays,
Spreading, until all above
Overflows with joy and love,
And below, on earth's green bosom,
All is changed to light and blossom :

When my waking fancies over
Forms of brightness flit and hover,
Holy as the seraphs are,
Who by Zion's fountains wear
On their foreheads, white and broad,
“HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD !”
When, inspired with rapture high,
It would seem a single sigh
Could a world of love create,—
That my life could know no date,
And my eager thoughts could fill
Heaven and Earth, o'erflowing still !—

Then, O Father ! thou alone,
From the shadow of thy throne,
To the sighing of my breast
And its rapture answerest.

All my thoughts, which, upward winging,
Bathe where thy own light is springing,—
All my yearnings to be free
Are as echoes answering thee !

Seldom upon lips of mine,
Father ! rests that name of thine,—
Deep within my inmost breast,
In the secret place of mind,
Like an awful presence shrined,
Doth the dread idea rest !
Hushed and holy dwells it there,—
Prompter of the silent prayer,
Lifting up my spirit's eye
And its faint, but earnest cry,
From its dark and cold abode,
Unto thee, my Guide and God !

THE FEMALE MARTYR.

[MARY G_____, aged 18, a “SISTER OF CHARITY,” died in one of our Atlantic cities, during the prevalence of the Indian cholera, while in voluntary attendance up on the sick.]

“BRING out your dead !” The midnight street
Heard and gave back the hoarse, low call ;
Harsh fell the tread of hasty feet,—
Glanced through the dark the coarse white sheet,—
Her coffin and her pall.
“What—only one !” the brutal hackman said,
As, with an oath, he spurned away the dead.

How sunk the inmost hearts of all,
As rolled that dead-cart slowly by,
With creaking wheel and harsh hoof-fall !
The dying turned him to the wall,
To hear it and to die !—
Onward it rolled ; while oft its driver stayed,
And hoarsely clamored, “Ho !—bring out your dead.”

It paused beside the burial-place ;
 "Toss in your load !"—and it was
 done.—
 With quick hand and averted face,
 Hastily to the grave's embrace
 They cast them, one by one.—
 Stranger and friend, — the evil and the
 just,
 Together trodden in the churchyard dust !

And thou, young martyr !—thou wast
 there,—
 No white-robed sisters round thee
 trod, —
 Nor holy hymn, nor funeral prayer
 Rose through the damp and noisome
 air,
 Giving thee to thy God ;
 Nor flower, nor cross, nor hallowed taper
 gave
 Grace to the dead, and beauty to the
 grave !

Yet, gentle sufferer ! there shall be,
 In every heart of kindly feeling,
 A rite as holy paid to thee
 As if beneath the convent-tree
 Thy sisterhood were kneeling,
 At vespers hours, like sorrowing angels,
 keeping
 Their tearful watch around thy place of
 sleeping.

For thou wast one in whom the light
 Of Heaven's own love was kindled
 well.

Enduring with a martyr's might,
 Through weary day and wakeful night
 Far more than words may tell :
 Gentle, and meek, and lowly, and un-
 known,—
 Thy mercies measured by thy God
 alone !

Where manly hearts were failing, —
 where
 The throngful street grew foul with
 death,
 O high-souled martyr !—thou wast
 there,
 Inhaling, from the loathsome air,
 Poison with every breath.
 Yet shrinking not from offices of dread
 For the wrung dying, and the uncon-
 scious dead.

And, where the sickly taper shed
 Its light through vapors, damp, con-
 fined,
 Hushed as a seraph's fell thy tread, —
 A new Electra by the bed
 Of suffering human-kind !
 Pointing the spirit, in its dark dismay,
 To that pure hope which fadeth not away.

Innocent teacher of the high
 And holy mysteries of Heaven !
 How turned to thee each glazing eye,
 In mute and awful sympathy,
 As thy low prayers were given ;
 And the o'er-hovering Spoiler wore,
 the while,
 An angel's features, — a deliverer's
 smile !

A blessed task ! — and worthy one
 Who, turning from the world, as thou,
 Before life's pathway had begun
 To leave its spring-time flower and sun,
 Had sealed her early vow ;
 Giving to God her beauty and her youth,
 Her pure affections and her guileless
 truth.

Earth may not claim thee. Nothing here
 Could be for thee a meet reward ;
 Thine is a treasure far more dear,
 Eye hath not seen it, nor the ear
 Of living mortal heard, —
 The joys prepared, — the promised bliss
 above, —
 The holy presence of Eternal Love !

Sleep on in peace. The earth has not
 A nobler name than thine shall be.
 The deeds by martial manhood wrought,
 The lofty energies of thought,
 The fire of poesy, —
 These have but frail and fading hon-
 ors ; — thine
 Shall Time unto Eternity consign.

Yea, and when thrones shall crumble
 down,
 And human pride and grandeur fall, —
 The herald's line of long renown, —
 The mitre and the kingly crown, —
 Perishing glories all !
 The pure devotion of thy generous heart
 Shall live in Heaven, of which it was a
 part.

THE FROST SPIRIT.

He comes,—he comes,—the Frost Spirit comes ! You may trace his footsteps now
On the naked woods and the blasted fields and the brown hill's withered brow.
He has smitten the leaves of the gray old trees where their pleasant green came
forth,
And the winds, which follow wherever he goes, have shaken them down to earth.

He comes,—he comes,—the Frost Spirit comes !—from the frozen Labrador,—
From the icy bridge of the Northern seas, which the white bear wanders o'er,—
Where the fisherman's sail is stiff with ice, and the luckless forms below
In the sunless cold of the lingering night into marble statues grow !

He comes,—he comes,—the Frost Spirit comes !—on the rushing Northern blast,
And the dark Norwegian pines have bowed as his fearful breath went past.
With an unscorched wing he has hurried on, where the fires of Hecla glow
On the darkly beautiful sky above and the ancient ice below.

He comes,—he comes,—the Frost Spirit comes !—and the quiet lake shall feel
The torpid touch of his glazing breath, and ring to the skater's heel :
And the streams which danced on the broken rocks, or sang to the leaning grass,
Shall bow again to their winter chain, and in mournful silence pass.

He comes,—he comes,—the Frost Spirit comes !—let us meet him as we may,
And turn with the light of the parlor-fire his evil power away ;
And gather closer the circle round, when that fire-light dances high,
And laugh at the shriek of the baffled Fiend as his sounding wing goes by !

THE VAUDOIS TEACHER.²⁸

"O LADY fair, these silks of mine are beautiful and rare,—
The richest web of the Indian loom, which beauty's queen might wear ;
And my pearls are pure as thy own fair neck, with whose radiant light they vie ;
I have brought them with me a weary way,—will my gentle lady buy ?"

And the lady smiled on the worn old man through the dark and clustering curls
Which veiled her brow as she bent to view his silks and glittering pearls ;
And she placed their price in the old man's hand, and lightly turned away,
But she paused at the wanderer's earnest call,—"My gentle lady, stay !"

"O lady fair, I have yet a gem which a purer lustre flings,
Than the diamond flash of the jewelled crown on the lofty brow of kings,—
A wonderful pearl of exceeding price, whose virtue shall not decay,
Whose light shall be as a spell to thee and a blessing on thy way !"

The lady glanced at the mirroring steel where her form of grace was seen,
Where her eye shone clear, and her dark locks waved their clasping pearls between,
"Bring forth thy pearl of exceeding worth, thou traveller gray and old, —
And name the price of thy precious gem, and my page shall count thy gold."

The cloud went off from the pilgrim's brow, as a small and meagre book,
Unchased with gold or gem of cost, from his folding robe he took !

"Here, lady fair, is the pearl of price, may it prove as such to thee !
Nay — keep thy gold — I ask it not, for the word of God is free !"

The hoary traveller went his way, but the gift he left behind
Hath had its pure and perfect work on that high-born maiden's mind,
And she hath turned from the pride of sin to the lowliness of truth,
And given her human heart to God in its beautiful hour of youth !

And she hath left the gray old halls, where an evil faith had power,
The courtly knights of her father's train, and the maidens of her bower ;
And she hath gone to the Vaudois vales by lordly feet untrod,
Where the poor and needy of earth are rich in the perfect love of God !

THE CALL OF THE CHRISTIAN.

Not always as the whirlwind's rush
On Horeb's mount of fear,
Not always as the burning bush
To Midian's shepherd seer,
Nor as the awful voice which came
To Israel's prophet bards,
Nor as the tongues of cloven flame,
Nor gift of fearful words, —

Not always thus, with outward sign
Of fire or voice from Heaven,
The message of a truth divine,
The call of God is given !
Awaking in the human heart
Love for the true and right, —
Zeal for the Christian's better part,
Strength for the Christian's fight.

Nor unto manhood's heart alone
The holy influence steals :
Warm with a rapture not its own,
The heart of woman feels !
As she who by Samaria's wall
The Saviour's errand sought, —
As those who with the fervent Paul
And meek Aquila wrought :

Or those meek ones whose martyrdom
Rome's gathered grandeur saw :
Or those who in their Alpine home
Braved the Crusader's war,
When the green Vaudois, trembling,
heard,
Through all its vales of death,
The martyr's song of triumph poured
From woman's failing breath.

And gently, by a thousand things
Which o'er our spirits pass,
Like breezes o'er the harp's fine strings,
Or vapors o'er a glass,
Leaving their token strange and new
Of music or of shade,
The summons to the right and true
And merciful is made.

O, then, if gleams of truth and light
Flash o'er thy waiting mind,
Unfolding to thy mental sight
The wants of human-kind ;
If, brooding over human grief,
The earnest wish is known
To soothe and gladden with relief
An anguish not thine own ;

Though heralded with naught of fear,
Or outward sign or show :
Though only to the inward ear
It whispers soft and low ;
Though dropping, as the manna fell,
Unseen, yet from above,
Noiseless as dew-fall, heed it well, —
Thy Father's call of love !

MY SOUL AND I.

STAND still, my soul, in the silent dark
I would question thee,
Alone in the shadow drear and stark
With God and me !

What, my soul, was thy errand here ?
Was it mirth or ease,

Or heaping up dust from year to
year?
 “ Nay, none of these ! ”

Speak, soul, aright in His holy sight
Whose eye looks still
And steadily on thee through the night :
 “To do his will ! ”

What hast thou done, O soul of mine,
That thou tremblest so ? —
Hast thou wrought his task, and kept
the line
 He bade thee go ?

What, silent all ! — art sad of cheer ?
Art fearful now ?
When God seemed far and men were
near,
How brave wert thou !

Aha ! thou tremblest ! — well I see
Thou ’rt craven grown.
Is it so hard with God and me
To stand alone ? —

Summon thy sunshine bravery back,
O wretched sprite !
Let me hear thy voice through this deep
and black
Abysmal night.

What hast thou wrought for Right and
Truth,
For God and Man,
From the golden hours of bright-eyed
youth
To life’s mid span ?

Ah, soul of mine, thy tones I hear,
But weak and low,
Like far sad murmurs on my ear
They come and go.

“ I have wrestled stoutly with the
Wrong,
And borne the Right
From beneath the footfall of the throng
To life and light.

“ Wherever Freedom shivered a chain,
God speed, quoth I ;
To Error amidst her shouting train
I gave the lie.”

Ah, soul of mine ! ah, soul of mine !
Thy deeds are well :
Were they wrought for Truth’s sake to
for thine ?
 My soul, pray tell.

“ Of all the work my hand hath wrought
Beneath the sky,
Save a place in kindly human thought,
No gain have I.”

Go to, go to ! — for thy very self
Thy deeds were done :
Thou for fame, the miser for pelf,
Your end is one !

And where art thou going, soul of mine ?
Canst see the end ?
And whither this troubled life of thine
Evermore doth tend ?

What daunts thee now ? — what shakes
thee so ?
 My sad soul say.
“ I see a cloud like a curtain low
Hang o’er my way.

“ Whither I go I cannot tell :
That cloud hangs black,
High as the heaven and deep as hell
Across my track.

“ I see its shadow coldly enwrap
The souls before.
Sadly they enter it, step by step,
To return no more.

“ They shrink, they shudder, dear God !
they kneel
To thee in prayer.
They shut their eyes on the cloud, but
feel
That it still is there.

“ Invain they turn from the dread Before
To the Known and Gone ;
For while gazing behind them evermore
Their feet glide on.

“ Yet, at times, I see upon sweet pale
faces
A light begin
To tremble, as if from holy places
And shrines within.

" And at times methinks their cold lips
move

With hymn and prayer,
As if somewhat of awe, but more of love
And hope were there.

" I call on the souls who have left the
light
To reveal their lot ;

I bend mine ear to that wall of night,
And they answer not.

" But I hear around me sighs of pain
And the cry of fear,
And a sound like the slow sad drop-
ping of rain,
Each drop a tear !

" Ah, the cloud is dark, and day by
day
I am moving thither :

I must pass beneath it on my way —
God pity me ! — WHITHER ? "

Ah, soul of mine ! so brave and wise
In the life-storm loud,
Fronting so calmly all human eyes
In the sunlit crowd !

Now standing apart with God and me
Thou art weakness all,
Gazing vainly after the things to be
Through Death's dread wall.

But never for this, never for this
Was thy being lent ;
For the craven's fear is but selfishness,
Like his merriment.

Folly and Fear are sisters twain :
One closing her eyes,
The other peopling the dark inane
With spectral lies.

Know well, my soul, God's hand con-
trols
Whate'er thou fearest ;
Round him in calmest music rolls
Whate'er thou hearest.

What to thee is shadow, to him is day,
And the end he knoweth,
And not on a blind and aimless way
The spirit goeth.

Man sees no future, — a phantom show
Is alone before him :
Past Time is dead, and the grasses grow,
And flowers bloom o'er him.

Nothing before, nothing behind ;
The steps of Faith
Fall on the seeming void, and find
The rock beneath.

The Present, the Present is all thou hast
For thy sure possessing ;
Like the patriarch's angel hold it fast
Till it gives its blessing.

Why fear the night ? why shrink from
Death,
That phantom wan ?
There is nothing in heaven or earth
beneath
Save God and man.

Peopling the shadows we turn from Him
And from one another ;
All is spectral and vague and dim
Save God and our brother !

Like warp and woof all destinies
Are woven fast,
Linked in sympathy like the keys
Of an organ vast.

Pluck one thread, and the web ye mar ;
Break but one
Of a thousand keys, and the paining jar
Through all will run.

O restless spirit ! wherefore strain
Beyond thy sphere ?
Heaven and hell, with their joy and
pain,
Are now and here.

Back to thyself is measured well
All thou hast given ;
Thy neighbor's wrong is thy present
hell,
His bliss, thy heaven.

And in life, in death, in dark and light,
All are in God's care ;
Sound the black abyss, pierce the
deep of night,
And he is there !

All which is real now remaineth,
And fadeth never :
The hand which upholds it now sus-
taineth
The soul forever.

Leaning on him, make with reverent
meekness
His own thy will,
And with strength from Him shall thy
utter weakness
Life's task fulfil ;

And that cloud itself, which now before
thee
Lies dark in view,
Shall with beams of light from the inner
glory
Be stricken through.

And like meadow mist through autumn's
dawn
Uprolling thin,
Its thickest folds when about thee drawn
Let sunlight in.

Then of what is to be, and of what is
done,
Why queriest thou? —
The past and the time to be are one,
And both are now !

TO A FRIEND,

ON HER RETURN FROM EUROPE.

How smiled the land of France
Under thy blue eye's glance,
Light-hearted rover !
Old walls of chateaux gray,
Towers of an early day,
Which the Three Colors play
Flauntingly over.

Now midst the brilliant train
Thronging the banks of Seine :
Now midst the splendor
Of the wild Alpine range,
Waking with change on change
Thoughts in thy young heart strange,
Lovely, and tender.

Vales, soft Elysian,
Like those in the vision
Of Mirza, when, dreaming,
He saw the long hollow dell,
Touched by the prophet's spell,
Into an ocean swell
With its isles teeming.

Cliffs wrapped in snows of years,
Splintering with icy spears
Autumn's blue heaven :
Loose rock and frozen slide,
Hung on the mountain-side,
Waiting their hour to glide
Downward, storm-driven !

Rhine stream, by castle old,
Baron's and robber's hold,
Peacefully flowing :
Sweeping through vineyards green,
Or where the cliffs are seen
O'er the broad wave between
Grim shadows throwing.

Or, where St. Peter's dome
Swells o'er eternal Rome,
Vast, dim, and solemn, —
Hymns ever chanting low, —
Censers swung to and fro, —
Sable stoles sweeping slow
Cornice and column !

O, as from each and all
Will there not voices call
Evermore back again?
In the mind's gallery
Wilt thou not always see
Dim phantoms beckon thee,
O'er that old track again ?

New forms thy presence haunt, —
New voices softly chant, —
New faces greet thee ! —
Pilgrims from many a shrine
Hallowed by poet's line,
At memory's magic sign,
Rising to meet thee.

And when such visions come
Unto thy olden home,
Will they not waken
Deep thoughts of Him whose hand
Led thee o'er sea and land
Back to the household band
Whence thou wast taken ?

While, at the sunset time,
Swells the cathedral's chime,
Yet, in thy dreaming,
While to thy spirit's eye
Yet the vast mountains lie
Piled in the Switzer's sky,
Icy and gleaming :

Prompter of silent prayer,
Be the wild picture there
In the mind's chamber,
And, through each coming day
Him who, as staff and stay,
Watched o'er thy wandering way,
Freshly remember.

So, when the call shall be
Soon or late unto thee,
As to all given,
Still may that picture live,
All its fair forms survive,
And to thy spirit give
Gladness in Heaven !

THE ANGEL OF PATIENCE.

A FREE PARAPHRASE OF THE GERMAN.

To weary hearts, to mourning homes,
God's meekest Angel gently comes :
No power has he to banish pain,
Or give us back our lost again ;
And yet in tenderest love, our dear
And Heavenly Father sends him here.

There 's quiet in that Angel's glance,
There 's rest in his still countenance !
He mocks no grief with idle cheer,
Nor wounds with words the mourner's
ear ;
But ills and woes he may not cure
He kindly trains us to endure.

Angel of Patience ! sent to calm
Our feverish brows with cooling palm ;
To lay the storms of hope and fear,
And reconcile life's smile and tear ;
The throbs of wounded pride to still,
And make our own our Father's will !

O thou who mournest on thy way,
With longings for the close of day ;

He walks with thee, that Angel kind,
And gently whispers, " Be resigned :
Bear up, bear on, the end shall tell
The dear Lord ordereth all things
well ! "

FOLLEN.

ON READING HIS ESSAY ON THE " FUTURE STATE."

FRIEND of my soul ! — as with moist
eye

I look up from this page of thine,
Is it a dream that thou art nigh,
Thy mild face gazing into mine ?

That presence seems before me now,
A placid heaven of sweet moonrise,
When, dew-like, on the earth below
Descends the quiet of the skies.

The calm brow through the parted
hair,

The gentle lips which knew no guile,
Softening the blue eye's thoughtful care
With the bland beauty of their smile.

Ah me ! — at times that last dread scene
Of Frost and Fire and moaning Sea,
Will cast its shade of doubt between
The failing eyes of Faith and thee.

Yet, lingering o'er thy charmed page,
Where through the twilight air of
earth,

Alike enthusiast and sage,
Prophet and bard, thou gazest forth ;

lifting the Future's solemn veil ;
The reaching of a mortal hand
To put aside the cold and pale
Cloud-curtains of the Unseen Land ;

In thoughts which answer to my own,
In words which reach my inward ear,
Like whispers from the void Unknown,
I feel thy living presence here.

The waves which lull thy body's rest,
The dust thy pilgrim footsteps trod,
Unwasted, through each change, attest
The fixed economy of God.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Shall these poor elements outlive
The mind whose kingly will they
wrought?

Their gross unconsciousness survive
Thy godlike energy of thought?

THOU LIVEST, FOLLEN! — not in vain
Hath thy fine spirit meekly borne
The burthen of Life's cross of pain,
And the thorned crown of suffering
worn.

O, while Life's solemn mystery glooms
Around us like a dungeon's wall, —
Silent earth's pale and crowded tombs,
Silent the heaven which bends o'er
all! —

While day by day our loved ones glide
In spectral silence, hushed and lone,
To the cold shadows which divide
The living from the dread Unknown;

While even on the closing eye,
And on the lip which moves in vain,
The seals of that stern mystery
Their undiscovered trust retain; —

And only midst the gloom of death,
Its mournful doubts and haunting
fears,

Two pale, sweet angels, Hope and Faith,
Smile dimly on us through their tears;

'T is something to a heart like mine
To think of thee as living yet;
To feel that such a light as thine
Could not in utter darkness set.

Less dreary seems the untried way
Since thou hast left thy footprints
there,

And beams of mournful beauty play
Round the sad Angel's sable hair.

Oh! — at this hour when half the sky
Is glorious with its evening light,
And fair broad fields of summer lie
Hung o'er with greenness in my sight;

While through these elm-boughs wet
with rain
The sunset's golden walls are seen,

With clover-bloom and yellow grain
And wood-draped hill and stream
between;

I long to know if scenes like this
Are hidden from an angel's eyes;
If earth's familiar loveliness
Haunts not thy heaven's serener skies.

For sweetly here upon thee grew
The lesson which that beauty gave,
The ideal of the Pure and True
In earth and sky and gliding wave.

And it may be that all which lends
The soul an upward impulse here,
With a diviner beauty blends,
And greets us in a holier sphere.

Through groves where blighting never
fell
The humbler flowers of earth may
twine;
And simple draughts from childhood's
well
Blend with the angel-tasted wine.

But be the prying vision veiled,
And let the seeking lips be dumb, —
Where even seraph eyes have failed
Shall mortal blindness seek to come?

We only know that thou hast gone,
And that the same returnless tide
Which bore thee from us still glides on,
And we who mourn thee with it glide.

On all thou lookest we shall look,
And to our gaze erelong shall turn
That page of God's mysterious book
We so much wish, yet dread to learn.

With Him, before whose awful power
Thy spirit bent its trembling knee; —
Who, in the silent greeting flower,
And forest leaf, looked out on thee, —

We leave thee, with a trust serene,
Which Time, nor Change, nor Death
can move,
While with thy childlike faith we lean,
On Him whose dearest name is
Love!

TO THE REFORMERS OF ENGLAND.

God bless ye, brothers! — in the fight
Ye're waging now, ye cannot fail,
For better is your sense of right
Than king-craft's triple mail.

Than tyrant's law, or bigot's ban,
More mighty is your simplest word:
The free heart of an honest man
Than crosier or the sword.

Go, — let your bloated Church rehearse
The lesson it has learned so well;
It moves not with its prayer or curse
The gates of heaven or hell.

Let the State scaffold rise again,—
Did Freedom die when Russell died?
Forget ye how the blood of Vane
From earth's green bosom cried?

The great hearts of your olden time
Are beating with you, full and strong
All holy memories and sublime
And glorious round ye throng.

The bluff, bold men of Runnymede
Are with ye still in times like these;
The shades of England's mighty dead,
Your cloud of witnesses!

The truths ye urge are borne abroad
By every wind and every tide;
The voice of Nature and of God
Speaks out upon your side.

The weapons which your hands have
found
Are those which Heaven itself has
wrought,
Light, Truth, and Love; your battle-
ground
The free, broad field of Thought.

No partial, selfish purpose breaks
The simple beauty of your plan,
Nor lie from throne of altar shakes
Your steady faith in man.

The languid pulse of England starts
And bounds beneath your words of
power,

The beating of her million hearts
Is with you at this hour!

O ye who, with undoubting eyes,
Through present cloud and gathering
storm,
Behold the span of Freedom's skies,
And sunshine soft and warm,—

Press bravely onward! — not in vain
Your generous trust in human-kind;
The good which bloodshed could not
gain
Your peaceful zeal shall find.

Press on! — the triumph shall be won
Of common rights and equal laws,
The glorious dream of Harrington,
And Sidney's good old cause.

Blessing the cotter and the crown,
Sweetening worn Labor's bitter cup;
And, plucking not the highest down,
Lifting the lowest up.

Press on! — and we who may not share
The toil or glory of your fight
May ask, at least, in earnest prayer,
God's blessing on the right!

THE QUAKER OF THE OLDEN TIME.

THE Quaker of the olden time! —
How calm and firm and true,
Unspotted by its wrong and crime,
He walked the dark earth through.
The lust of power, the love of gain,
The thousand lures of sin
Around him, had no power to stain
The purity within.

With that deep insight which detects
All great things in the small,
And knows how each man's life affects
The spiritual life of all,
He walked by faith and not by sight,
By love and not by law;
The presence of the wrong or right
He rather felt than saw.

He felt that wrong with wrong partakes,
That nothing stands alone,
That whoso gives the motive, makes
His brother's sin his own.
And, pausing not for doubtful choice
Of evils great or small,
He listened to that inward voice
Which called away from all.

O Spirit of that early day,
So pure and strong and true,
Be with us in the narrow way
Our faithful fathers knew.
Give strength the evil to forsake,
The cross of Truth to bear,
And love and reverent fear to make
Our daily lives a prayer !

THE REFORMER.

ALL grim and soiled and brown with tan,
I saw a Strong One, in his wrath,
Smiting the godless shrines of man
Along his path.

The Church, beneath her trembling dome
Essayed in vain her ghostly charm :
Wealth shook within his gilded home
With strange alarm.

Fraud from his secret chambers fled
Before the sunlight bursting in :
Sloth drew her pillow o'er her head
To drown the din.

"Spare," Art implored, "yon holy pile;
That grand, old, time-worn turret
spare";
Meek Reverence, kneeling in the aisle,
Cried out, "Forbear!"

Gray-bearded Use, who, deaf and blind,
Groped for his old accustomed stone,
Leaned on his staff, and wept to find
His seat o'erthrown.

Young Romance raised his dreamy eyes,
O'erhung with paly locks of gold, —
"Why smite," he asked in sad surprise,
"The fair, the old?"

Yet louder rang the Strong One's stroke,
Yet nearer flashed his axe's gleam ;
Shuddering and sick of heart I woke,
As from a dream.

I looked : aside the dust-cloud rolled, —
The Waster seemed the Builder too :
Up springing from the ruined Old
I saw the New.

'T was but the ruin of the bad, —
The wasting of the wrong and ill :
Whate'er of good the old time had
Was living still.

Calm grew the brows of him I feared :
The frown which awed me passed
away,
And left behind a smile which cheered
Like breaking day.

The grain grew green on battle-plains,
O'er swarded war-mounds grazed the
cow :
The slave stood forging from his chains
The spade and plough.

Where frowned the fort, pavilions gay
And cottage windows, flower-en-
twined,
Looked out upon the peaceful bay
And hills behind.

Through vine-wreathed cups with wine
once red,
The lights on brimming crystal fell,
Drawn, sparkling, from the rivulet head
And mossy well.

Through prison walls, like Heaven-sent
hope,
Fresh breezes blew, and sunbeams
strayed,
And with the idle gallows-rope
The young child played.

Where the doomed victim in his cell
Had counted o'er the weary hours,
Glad school-girl's, answering to the bed
Came crowned with flowers.

Grown wiser for the lesson given,
I fear no longer, for I know
That, where the share is deepest drawn
The best fruits grow.

The outworn rite, the old abuse,
The pious fraud transparent grown,
The good held captive in the use
Of wrong alone, —

These wait their doom, from that great law
Which makes the past time serve to-day;
And fresher life the world shall draw
From their decay.

O, backward-looking son of time !
The new is old, the old is new,
The cycle of a change sublime
Still sweeping through.

So wisely taught the Indian seer ;
Destroying Seva, forming Brahmin,
Who wake by turns Earth's love and fear,
Are one, the same.

Idly as thou, in that old day
Thou mournest, did thy sire repine :
So, in his time, thy child grown gray
Shall sigh for thine.

But life shall on and upward go :
Th' eternal step of Progress beats
To that great anthem, calm and slow,
Which God repeats.

Take heart ! — the Waster builds again, —
A charmed life old Goodness hath ;
The tares may perish, — but the grain
Is not for death.

God works in all things ; all obey
His first propulsion from the night :
Wake thou and watch ! — the world is gray
With morning light !

THE PRISONER FOR DEBT.

Look on him ! — through his dungeon grate

Feebly and cold, the morning light
Comes stealing round him, dim and late,
As if it loathed the sight.

Reclining on his strawy bed,
His hand upholds his drooping head, —
His bloodless cheek is seamed and hard,
Unshorn his gray, neglected beard ;
And o'er his bony fingers flow
His long, dishevelled locks of snow.

No grateful fire before him glows,
And yet the winter's breath is chill ;
And o'er his half-clad person goes
The frequent ague thrill !
Silent, save ever and anon,
A sound, half murmur and half groan,
Forces apart the painful grip
Of the old sufferer's bearded lip ;
O sad and crushing is the fate
Of old age chained and desolate !

Just God ! why lies that old man there ?
A murderer shares his prison bed,
Whose eyeballs, through his horrid hair,
Gleam on him, fierce and red :
And the rude oath and heartless jeer
Fall ever on his loathing ear,
And, or in wakefulness or sleep,
Nerve, flesh, and pulses thrill and creep
Whene'er that ruffian's tossing limb,
Crimson with murder, touches him !

What has the gray-haired prisoner done ?
Has murder stained his hands with gore ?
Not so ; his crime's a fouler one ;
GOD MADE THE OLD MAN POOR !
For this he shares a felon's cell, —
The fittest earthly type of hell !
For this, the boon for which he poured
His young blood on the invader's sword,
And counted light the fearful cost, —
His blood-gained liberty is lost !

And so, for such a place of rest,
Old prisoner, dropped thy blood as rain
On Concord's field, and Bunker's crest,
And Saratoga's plain ?
Look forth, thou man of many scars,
Through thy dim dungeon's iron bars ;
It must be joy, in sooth, to see
Yon monument upreared to thee, —
Piled granite and a prison cell, —
The land repays thy service well !

Go, ring the bells and fire the guns,
And fling the starry banner out;
Shout "Freedom!" till your lisping
ones

Give back their cradle-shout;
Let boastful eloquence declaim
Of honor, liberty, and fame;
Still let the poet's strain be heard,
With glory for each second word,
And everything with breath agree
To praise "our glorious liberty!"

But when the patron cannon jars,
That prison's cold and gloomy wall,
And through its grates the stripes and
stars

Rise on the wind and fall, —
Think ye that prisoner's aged ear
Rejoices in the general cheer?
Think ye his dim and failing eye
Is kindled at your pageantry?
Sorrowing of soul, and chained of limb,
What is your carnival to him?

Down with the LAW that binds him
thus!

Unworthy freemen, let it find
No refuge from the withering curse
Of God and human kind!
Open the prison's living tomb,
And usher from its brooding gloom
The victims of your savage code
To the free sun and air of God;
No longer dare as crime to brand,
The chastening of the Almighty's hand.

LINES,

WRITTEN ON READING PAMPHLETS
PUBLISHED BY CLERGYMEN AGAINST
THE ABOLITION OF THE GALLows.

I.

THE suns of eighteen centuries have
shone
Since the Redeemer walked with
man, and made
The fisher's boat, the cavern's floor of
stone,
And mountain moss, a pillow for his
head;

And He, who wandered with the peasant Jew,
And broke with publicans the bread
of shame,
And drank, with blessings in his
Father's name.
The water which Samaria's outcast
drew,
Hath now his temples upon every
shore,
Altar and shrine and priest,— and
incense dim
Evermore rising, with low prayer
and hymn,
From lips which press the temple's
marble floor,
Or kiss the gilded sign of the dread
Cross He bore.

II.

Yet as of old, when, meekly "doing
good,"
He fed a blind and selfish multitude,
And even the poor companions of his
lot
With their dim earthly vision knew him
not,
How ill are his high teachings un-
derstood!
Where He hath spoken Liberty, the
priest
At his own altar binds the chain
anew:
Where He hath bidden to Life's equal
feast,
The starving many wait upon the
few;
Where He hath spoken Peace, his
name hath been
The loudest war-cry of contending
men;
Priests, pale with vigils, in his name
have blessed
The unsheathed sword, and laid the
spear in rest,
Wet the war-banner with their sacred
wine,
And crossed its blazon with the holy
sign;
Yea, in his name who bade the erring
live,
And daily taught his lesson,— to ~~to~~
give!—

Twisted the cord and edged the murderous steel ;
 And, with his words of mercy on their lips,
 Hung gloating o'er the pincer's burning grips,
 And the grim horror of the straining wheel ;
 Fed the slow flame which gnawed the victim's limb,
 Who saw before his searing eyeballs swim
 The image of *their* Christ in cruel zeal,
 Through the black torment-smoke, held mockingly to him !

III.

The blood which mingled with the desert sand,
 And beaded with its red and ghastly dew
 The vines and olives of the Holy Land,—
 The shrieking curses of the hunted Jew, —
 The white-sown bones of heretics, where'er
 They sank beneath the Crusade's holy spear, —
 Goa's dark dungeons, — Malta's sea-washed cell,
 Where with the hymns the ghostly fathers sung
 Mingled the groans by subtle torture wrung,
 Heaven's anthem blending with the shriek of hell !
 The midnight of Bartholomew, — the stake
 Of Smithfield, and that thrice-accursed flame
 Which Calvin kindled by Geneva's lake, —
 New England's scaffold, and the priestly sneer
 Which mocked its victims in that hour of fear,
 When guilt itself a human tear might claim, —
 Bear witness, O thou wronged and merciful One !
 That Earth's most hateful crimes have in thy name been done !

IV.

Thank God ! that I have lived to see
 the time
 When the great truth begins at last
 to find
 An utterance from the deep heart of mankind,
 Earnest and clear, that ALL REVENGE
 IS CRIME !
 That man is holier than a creed, —
 that all
 Restraint upon him must consult his good,
 Hope's sunshine linger on his prison wall,
 And Love look in upon his solitude.
 The beautiful lesson which our Saviour taught
 Through long, dark centuries its way
 hath wrought
 Into the common mind and popular thought ;
 And words, to which by Galilee's lake shore
 The humble fishers listened with hushed oar,
 Have found an echo in the general heart,
 And of the public faith become a living part.

V.

Who shall arrest this tendency ? — Bring back
 The cells of Venice and the bigot's rack ?
 Harden the softening human heart again
 To cold indifference to a brother's pain ?
 Ye most unhappy men ! — who, turned away
 From the mild sunshine of the Gospel day,
 Grope in the shadows of Man's twilight time,
 What mean ye, that with ghoul-like zest ye brood,
 O'er those foul altars streaming with warm blood,
 Permitted in another age and clime ?
 Why cite that law with which the big' Jew
 Rebuked the Pagan's mercy, when knew

No evil in the Just One? — Wherefore
turn
To the dark cruel past? — Can ye not
learn
From the pure Teacher's life, how mildly free
Is the great Gospel of Humanity?
The Flamen's knife is bloodless, and
no more
Mexitli's altars soak with human gore,
No more the ghastly sacrifices smoke
Through the green arches of the Druid's oak:
And ye of milder faith, with your high
claim
Of prophet-utterance in the Holiest
name,
Will ye become the Druids of *our* time!
Set up your scaffold-altars in *our* land,
And, consecrators of Law's darkest
crime,
Urge to its loathsome work the hangman's hand?
Beware, — lest human nature, roused
at last,
From its peeled shoulder your encumbrance cast,
And, sick to loathing of your cry for
blood,
Rank ye with those who led their victims round
The Celt's red altar and the Indian's
mound,
Abhorred of Earth and Heaven, — a
pagan brotherhood!

THE HUMAN SACRIFICE.

I.

FAR from his close and noisome cell,
By grassy lane and sunny stream,
Blown clover field and strawberry dell,
And green and meadow freshness, fell
The footsteps of his dream.
Again from careless feet the dew
Of summer's misty morn he shook;
Again with merry heart he threw
His light line in the rippling brook.
Back crowded all his school-day joys,
He urged the ball and quoit again,
And heard the shout of laughing boys
Come ringing down the walnut glen.

Again he felt the western breeze,
With scent of flowers and crispin
hay;
And down again through wind-stirred
trees
He saw the quivering sunlight play.
An angel in home's vine-hung door,
He saw his sister smile once more;
Once more the truant's brown-locke
head
Upon his mother's knees was laid,
And sweetly lulled to slumber there,
With evening's holy hymn and prayer

II.

He woke. At once on heart and brain
The present Terror rushed again, —
Clanked on his limbs the felon's chain
He woke, to hear the church-tower tell
Time's footfall on the conscious bell.
And, shuddering, feel that clangor dis
His life's LAST HOUR had ushered in;
To see within his prison-yard,
Through the small window, iron bars,
The gallows shadow rising dim
Between the sunrise heaven and him, —
A horror in God's blessed air, —
A blackness in his morning light, —
Like some foul devil-altar there
Built up by demon hands at night.
And, maddened by that evil sight,
Dark, horrible, confused, and strange,
A chaos of wild, weltering change,
All power of check and guidance gone,
Dizzy and blind, his mind swept on.
In vain he strove to breathe a prayer,

In vain he turned the Holy Book,
He only heard the gallows-stair
Creak as the wind its timbers shone
No dream for him of sin forgiven,
While still that baleful spectre stood
With its hoarse murmur, "Blood,
Blood!"
Between him and the pitying Heaven

III.

Low on his dungeon floor he knelt,
And smote his breast, and on
chain,
Whose iron clasp he always felt,
His hot tears fell like rain;
And near him, with the cold, calm look
And tone of one whose formal part

Unwarmed, unsoftened of the heart,
Is measured out by rule and book,
With placid lip and tranquil blood,
The hangman's ghostly ally stood,
Blessing with solemn text and word
The gallows-drop and strangling cord ;
Lending the sacred Gospel's awe
And sanction to the crime of Law.

IV.

He saw the victim's tortured brow,—
The sweat of anguish starting there,—
The record of a nameless woe
In the dim eye's imploring stare,
Seen hideous through the long, damp
hair,—

Fingers of ghastly skin and bone
Working and writhing on the stone !—
And heard, by mortal terror wrung
From heaving breast and stiffened
tongue,
The choking sob and low hoarse
prayer :
As o'er his half-crazed fancy came
A vision of the eternal flame,—
Its smoking cloud of agonies,—
Its demon-worm that never dies,—
The everlasting rise and fall
Of fire-waves round the infernal wall ;
While high above that dark red flood,
Black, giant-like, the gallows stood ;
Two busy fiends attending there :
One with cold mocking rite and prayer,
The other with impatient grasp,
Tightening the death-rope's strangling
clasp.

V.

The unfelt rite at length was done,—
The prayer unheard at length was
said,—
An hour had passed :— the noonday
sun

Smote on the features of the dead !
And he who stood the doomed be-
side,
Calm gauger of the swelling tide
Of mortal agony and fear,
Heeding with curious eye and ear
Whate'er revealed the keen excess
Of man's extremest wretchedness :
And who in that dark anguish saw
An earnest of the victim's fate,

The vengeful terrors of God's law,
The kindlings of Eternal hate,—
The first drops of that fiery rain
Which beats the dark red realm of
pain,

Did he uplift his earnest cries
Against the crime of Law, which
gave

His brother to that fearful grave,
Whereon Hope's moonlight never lies,
And Faith's white blossoms never
wave

To the soft breath of Memory's sighs :—
Which sent a spirit marred and stained,
By fiends of sin possessed, profaned,
In madness and in blindness stark,
Into the silent, unknown dark ?
No,— from the wild and shrinking
dread

With which he saw the victim led
Beneath the dark veil which divides
Ever the living from the dead,
And Nature's solemn secret hides,
The man of prayer can only draw
New reasons for his bloody law ;
New faith in staying Murder's hand
By murder at that Law's command ;
New reverence for the gallows-rope,
As human Nature's latest hope ;
Last relic of the good old time,
When Power found license for its crime,
And held a writhing world in check
By that fell cord about its neck ;
Stifled Sedition's rising shout,
Choked the young breath of Freedom
out,
And timely checked the words which
sprung

From Heresy's forbidden tongue ;
While in its noose of terror bound,
The Church its cherished union found,
Conforming, on the Moslem plan,
The motley-colored mind of man,
Not by the Koran and the Sword,
But by the Bible and the Cord !

VI.

O, Thou ! at whose rebuke the grave
Back to warm life its sleeper gave,
Beneath whose sad and tearful glance
The cold and changed countenance
Broke the still horror of its trance,
And, waking, saw with joy above,

A brother's face of tenderest love ;
 Thou, unto whom the blind and lame,
 The sorrowing and the sin-sick came,
 And from thy very garment's hem
 Drew life and healing unto them,
 The burden of thy holy faith
 Was love and life, not hate and death,
 Man's demon ministers of pain,
 The fiends of his revenge were sent
 From thy pure Gospel's element
 To their dark home again.
 Thy name is Love ! What, then, is
 he,
 Who in that name the gallows rears,
 An awful altar built to thee,
 With sacrifice of blood and tears ?
 O, once again thy healing lay
 On the blind eyes which knew thee
 not
 And let the light of thy pure day
 Melt in upon his darkened thought.
 Soften his hard, cold heart, and show
 The power which in forbearance
 lies,
 And let him feel that mercy now
 Is better than old sacrifice !

VII.

As on the White Sea's charmed shore,
 The Parsee sees his holy hill
 With dunkest smoke-clouds curtained
 o'er,
 Yet knows beneath them, evermore,
 The low, pale fire is quivering still ;
 So, underneath its clouds of sin,
 The heart of man retaineth yet
 Gleams of its holy origin ;
 And half-quenched stars that never
 set,
 Dim colors of its faded bow,
 And early beauty, linger there,
 And o'er its wasted desert blow
 Faint breathings of its morning air,
 O, never yet upon the scroll
 Of the sin-stained, but priceless soul,
 Hath Heaven inscribed " DESPAIR ! "
 Cast not the clouded gem away,
 Quench not the dim but living ray, —
 My brother man, Beware !
 With that deep voice which from the
 skies
 Forbade the Patriarch's sacrifice,
 God's angel cries, FORBEAR !

RANDOLPH OF ROANOKE

O MOTHER EARTH ! upon thy lap
 Thy weary ones receiving,
 And o'er them, silent as a dream,
 Thy grassy mantle weaving,
 Fold softly in thy long embrace
 That heart so worn and broken,
 And cool its pulse of fire beneath
 Thy shadows old and oaken.

Shut out from him the bitter word
 And serpent hiss of scorning ;
 Nor let the storms of yesterday
 Disturb his quiet morning.
 Breathe over him forgetfulness
 Of all save deeds of kindness,
 And, save to smiles of grateful eyes,
 Press down his lids in blindness.

There, where with living ear and eye
 He heard Potomac's flowing,
 And, through his tall ancestral trees,
 Saw autumn's sunset glowing,
 He sleeps, — still looking to the west,
 Beneath the dark wood shadow,
 As if he still would see the sun
 Sink down on wave and meadow.

Bard, Sage, and Tribune ! — in himself
 All moods of mind contrasting, —
 The tenderest wail of human woe,
 The scorn-like lightning blasting :
 The pathos which from rival eyes
 Unwilling tears could summon,
 The stinging taunt, the fiery burst
 Of hatred scarcely human !

Mirth, sparkling like a diamond shower
 From lips of life-long sadness :
 Clear picturings of majestic thought
 Upon a ground of madness :
 And over all Romance and Song
 A classic beauty throwing,
 And laurelled Clio at his side
 Her storied pages showing.

All parties feared him : each in turn
 Beheld its schemes disjointed,
 As right or left his fatal glance
 And spectral finger pointed.
 Sworn foe of Cant, he smote it down
 With trenchant wit unsparing,
 And, mocking, rent with ruthless hand
 The robe Pretence was wearing.

Too honest or too proud to feign
 A love he never cherished,
 Beyond Virginia's border line
 His patriotism perished.
 While others hailed in distant skies
 Our eagle's dusky pinion,
 He only saw the mountain bird
 Stoop o'er his Old Dominion !

Still through each change of fortune
 strange.
 Racked nerve, and brain all burning,
 His loving faith in Mother-land
 Knew never shade of turning ;
 By Britain's lakes, by Neva's wave,
 Whatever sky was o'er him,
 He heard her rivers' rushing sound,
 Her blue peaks rose before him.

He held his slaves, yet made withhold
 No false and vain pretences,
 Nor paid a lying priest to seek
 For Scriptural defences.
 His harshest words of proud rebuke,
 His bitterest taunt and scorning,
 Fell fire-like on the Northern brow
 That bent to him in fawning.

He held his slaves : yet kept the while
 His reverence for the Human :
 In the dark vassals of his will
 He saw but Man and Woman !
 No hunter of God's outraged poor
 His Roanoke valley entered ;
 No trader in the souls of men
 Across his threshold ventured.

And when the old and wearied man
 Lay down for his last sleeping,
 And at his side, a slave no more,
 His brother-man stood weeping,
 His latest thought, his latest breath,
 To Freedom's duty giving,
 With failing tongue and trembling hand
 The dying blest the living.

O, never bore his ancient State
 A truer son or braver !
 None trampling with a calmer scorn
 On foreign hate or favor.
 He knew her faults, yet never stooped
 His proud and manly feeling
 To poor excuses of the wrong
 Or meanness of concealing.

But none beheld with clearer eye
 The plague-spot o'er her spreading,
 None heard more sure the steps of Doom
 Along her future treading.
 For her as for himself he spake,
 When, his gaunt frame upbracing,
 Hetraced with dying hand "REMORSE!"
 And perished in the tracing.

As from the grave where Henry sleeps,
 From Vernon's weeping willow,
 And from the grassy pall which hides
 The Sage of Monticello,
 So from the leaf-strewn burial-stone
 Of Randolph's lowly dwelling,
 Virginia ! o'er thy land of slaves
 A warning voice is swelling !

And hark ! from thy deserted fields
 Are sadder warnings spoken,
 From quenched hearths, where thy ex-
 ilid sons
 Their household gods have broken.
 The curse is on thee, — wolves for men,
 And briers for corn-sheaves giving !
 O, more than all thy dead renown
 Were now one hero living !

DEMOCRACY.

All things whatsoever ye would that
 men should do to you, do ye even so to
 them.— *Matthew vii. 12.*

BEARER of Freedom's holy light,
 Breaker of Slavery's chain and rod,
 The foe of all which pains the sight,
 Or wounds the generous ear of God !

Beautiful yet thy temples rise,
 Though there profaning gifts are
 thrown ;
 And fires unkindled of the skies
 Are glaring round thy altar-stone.

Still sacred, — though thy name be
 breathed
 By those whose hearts thy truth de-
 ride ;
 And garlands, plucked from thee, are
 wreathed
 Around the haughty brows of Pride.

O, idea! of my boyhood's time!

The faith in which my father stood,
Even when the sons of Lust and Crime
Had stained thy peaceful courts with
blood!

Still to those courts my footsteps turn,
For through the mists which darken
there,
I see the flame of Freedom burn,—
The Kebla of the patriot's prayer!

The generous feeling, pure and warm,
Which owns the rights of all divine,—
The pitying heart,—the helping arm,—
The prompt self-sacrifice,—are thine.

Beneath thy broad, impartial eye,
How fade the lines of caste and birth!
How equal in their suffering lie
The groaning multitudes of earth!

Still to a stricken brother true,
Whatever clime hath nurtured him;
As stooped to heal the wounded Jew
The worshipper of Gerizim.

By misery unrepelled, unawed
By pomp or power, thou seest a MAN
In prince or peasant, — slave or lord, —
Pale priest, or swarthy artisan.

Through all disguise, form, place, or
name,
Beneath the flaunting robes of sin,
Through poverty and squalid shame,
Thou lookest on the man within.

On man, as man, retaining yet,
Howe'er debased, and soiled, and dim,
The crown upon his forehead set, —
The immortal gift of God to him.

And there is reverence in thy look ;
For that frail form which mortals wear
The Spirit of the Holiest took,
And veiled his perfect brightness
there.

Not from the shallow babbling fount
Of vain philosophy thou art ;
He who of old on Syria's mount
Thrilled, warmed, by turns, the lis-
tener's heart,

In holy words which cannot die,
In thoughts which angels leaned to
know,
Proclaimed thy message from on high,—
Thy mission to a world of woe.

That voice's echo hath not died !
From the blue lake of Galilee,
And Tabor's lonely mountain-side,
It calls a struggling world to thee.

Thy name and watchword o'er this land
I hear in every breeze that stirs,
And round a thousand altars stand
Thy banded party worshippers.

Not to these altars of a day,
At party's call, my gift I bring :
But on thy oiden shrine I lay
A freeman's dearest offering :

The voiceless utterance of his will, —
His pledge to Freedom and to Truth,
That manhood's heart remembers still
The homage of his generous youth.

Election Day, 1843.

TO RONGE.

STRIKE home, strong-hearted man !
Down to the root
Of old oppression sink the Saxon steel.
Thy work is to hew down. In God's
name then
Put nerve into thy task. Let other
men
Plant, as they may, that better tree
whose fruit
The wounded bosom of the Church
shall heal.
Be thou the image-breaker. Let thy
blows
Fall heavy as the Suabian's iron hand,
On crown or crozier, which shall inter-
pose
Between thee and the weal of Father-
land.
Leave creeds to closet idlers. First of
all,
Shake thou all German dream-land with
the fall

Of that accursed tree, whose evil trunk
Was spared of old by Erfurt's stalwart
monk.
Fight not with ghosts and shadows.
Let us hear
The snap of chain-links. Let our gladdened ear
Catch the pale prisoner's welcome, as
the light
Follows thy axe-stroke, through his
cell of night.
Be faithful to both worlds; nor think
to feed
Earth's starving millions with the husks
of creed.
Servant of Him whose mission high
and holy
Was to the wronged, the sorrowing, and
the lowly,
Thrust not his Eden promise from our
sphere,
Distant and dim beyond the blue sky's
span;
Like him of Patmos, see it, now and
here,—
The New Jerusalem comes down to
man!
Be warned by Luther's error. Nor
like him,
When the roused Teuton dashes from
his limb
The rusted chain of ages, help to bind
His hands for whom thou claim'st the
freedom of the mind!

—
CHALKLEY HALL.²⁰

How bland and sweet the greeting of
this breeze
To him who flies
From crowded street and red wall's
weary gleam,
Till far behind him like a hideous dream
The close dark city lies!

Here, while the market murmurs, while
men throng
The marble floor
Of Mammon's altar, from the crush and
din
Of the world's madness let me gather in
My better thoughts once more.

O, once again revive, while on my ear
The cry of Gain
And low hoarse hum of Traffic die away,
Ye blessed memories of my early day
Like sere grass wet with rain! —

Once more let God's green earth and
sunset air
Old feelings waken;
Through weary years of toil and strife
and ill,
O, let me feel that my good angel still
Hath not his trust forsaken.

And well do time and place befit my
mood:
Beneath the arms
Of this embracing wood, a good man
made
His home, like Abraham resting in the
shade
Of Mamre's lonely palms.

Here, rich with autumn gifts of count-
less years,
The virgin soil
Turned from the share he guided, and
in rain
And summer sunshine threw the fruits
and grain
Which blessed his honest toil.

Here, from his voyages on the stormy
seas,
Weary and worn,
He came to meet his children and to
bless
The Giver of all good in thankfulness
And praise for his return.

And here his neighbors gathered in to
greet
Their friend again,
Safe from the wave and the destroying
gales,
Which reap untimely green Bermuda's
vales,
And vex the Carib main.

To hear the good man tell of simple truth,
Sown in an hour
Of weakness in some far-off Indian isle,
From the parched bosom of a barren soil,
Raised up in life and power;

How at those gatherings in Barbadian
vales,

A tendering love
Came o'er him, like the gentle rain from
heaven,
And words of fitness to his lips were
given,
And strength as from above :

How the sad captive listened to the
Word,

Until his chain
Grew lighter, and his wounded spirit
felt
The healing balm of consolation melt
Upon its life-long pain :

How the armed warrior sat him down
to hear
Of Peace and Truth,
And the proud ruler and his Creole
dame,
Jewelled and gorgeous in her beauty
came,
And fair and bright-eyed youth.

O, far away beneath New England's sky,
Even when a boy,
Following my plough by Merrimack's
green shore,
His simple record I have pondered o'er
With deep and quiet joy.

And hence this scene, in sunset glory
warm,—
Its woods around,
Its still stream winding on in light and
shade,
Its soft, green meadows and its upland
glade,—
To me is holy ground.

And dearer far than haunts where
Genius keeps
His vigils still ;
Than that where Avon's son of song is
laid,
Or Vaucluse hallowed by its Petrarch's
shade,
Or Virgil's laurelled hill.

To the gray walls of fallen Paraclete,
To Juliet's urn,
Fair Arno and Sorrento's orange-grove,

Where Tasso sang, let young Romance
and Love
Like brother pilgrims turn.

But here a deeper and serener charm
To all is given ;
And blessed memories of the faithful
dead
O'er wood and vale and meadow-stream
have shed
The holy hues of Heaven !

TO J. P.

NOT as a poor requital of the joy
With which my childhood heard thy
lay of thine,
Which, like an echo of the song divine
At Bethlehem breathed above the Holy
Boy,
Bore to my ear the Airs of Palestine.—
Not to the poet, but the man I bring
In friendship's fearless trust my offering :
How much it lacks I feel, and thou wilt
see,
Yet well I know that thou hast deemed
with me
Life all too earnest, and its time too
short
For dreamy ease and Fancy's graceful
sport ;
And girded for thy constant strife with
wrong,
Like Nehemiah fighting while he
wrought
The broken walls of Zion, even thy
song
Hath a rude martial tone, a b'vw in
every thought !

THE CYPRESS-TREE OF CEYLON.

[IBN BATUTA, the celebrated Mussulman traveller of the fourteenth century, speaks of a cypress-tree in Ceylon, universally held sacred by the natives, the leaves of which were said to fall only at certain intervals, and he who had the happiness to find and eat one of them, was restored, at once, to

youth and vigor. The traveller saw several venerable Joggies, or saints, sitting silent and motionless under the tree, patiently awaiting the falling of a leaf.]

THEY sat in silent watchfulness
The sacred cypress-tree about,
And, from beneath old wrinkled brows
Their failing eyes looked out.

Gray Age and Sickness waiting there
Through weary night and lingering day,—
Grim as the idols at their side,
And motionless as they.

Unheeded in the boughs above
The song of Ceylon's birds was sweet ;
Unseen of them the island flowers
Bloomed brightly at their feet.

O'er them the tropic night-storm swept,
The thunder crashed on rock and hill ;
The cloud-fire on their eyeballs blazed,
Yet there they waited still !

What was the world without to them ?
The Moslem's sunset-call,—the dance
Of Ceylon's maids, —the passing gleam
Of battle-flag and lance ?

They waited for that falling leaf
Of which the wandering Jogeess sing :
Which lends once more to wintry age
The greenness of its spring.

O, if these poor and blinded ones
In trustful patience wait to feel
O'er torpid pulse and failing limb
A youthful freshness steal ;

Shall we, who sit beneath that Tree
Whose healing leaves of life are shed,
In answer to the breath of prayer,
Upon the waiting head ;

Not to restore our failing forms,
And build the spirit's broken shrine,
But, on the fainting SOUL to shed
A light and life divine ;

Shall we grow weary in our watch,
And murmur at the long delay ?
Impatient of our Father's time
And his appointed way ?

Or shall the stir of outward things
Allure and claim the Christian's eye,
When on the heathen watcher's ear
Their powerless murmurs die ?

Alas ! a deeper test of faith
Than prison cell or martyr's stake.
The self-abasing watchfulness
Of silent prayer may make.

We gird us bravely to rebuke
Our erring brother in the wrong, —
And in the ear of Pride and Power
Our warning voice is strong.

Easier to smite with Peter's sword
Than "watch one hour" in hum-
bling prayer.
Life's "great things," like the Syrian
lord,
Our hearts can do and dare.

But oh ! we shrink from Jordan's side,
From waters which alone can save ;
And murmur for Abana's banks
And Pharpar's brighter wave.

O Thou, who in the garden's shade
Didst wake thy weary ones again,
Who slumbered at that fearful hour
Forgetful of thy pain ;

Bend o'er us now, as over them,
And set our sleep-bound spirits free,
Nor leave us slumbering in the watch
Our souls should keep with Thee !

A DREAM OF SUMMER.

BLAND as the morning breath of June
The southwest breezes play ;
And, through its haze, the winter noon
Seems warm as summer's day.
The snow-plumed Angel of the North
Has dropped his icy spear :
Again the mossy earth looks forth,
Again the streams gush clear.

The fox his hillside cell forsakes,
The muskrat leaves his nook,
The bluebird in the meadow brakes
Is singing with the brook.

" Bear up, O Mother Nature ! " cry
 Bird, breeze, and streamlet free ;
 " Our winter voices prophesy
 Of summer days to thee ! "

So, in those winters of the soul,
 By bitter blasts and drear
 O'erswept from Memory's frozen pole,
 Will sunny days appear.
 Reviving Hope and Faith, they show
 The soul its living powers,
 And how beneath the winter's snow
 Lie germs of summer flowers !

The Night is mother of the Day,
 The Winter of the Spring,
 And ever upon old Decay
 The greenest mosses cling.
 Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,
 Through showers the sunbeams fall ;
 For God, who loveth all his works,
 Has left his Hope with all !

4th 1st month, 1847.

TO —,

WITH A COPY OF WOOLMAN'S JOURNAL.

" Get the writings of John Woolman by heart." — *Essays of Elia.*

MAIDEN ! with the fair brown tresses
 Shading o'er thy dreamy eye,
 Floating on thy thoughtful forehead
 Cloud wreaths of its sky.

Youthful years and maiden beauty,
 Joy with them should still abide,—
 Instinct take the place of Duty,
 Love, not Reason, guide.

Ever in the New rejoicing,
 Kindly beckoning back the Old,
 Turning, with the gift of Midas,
 All things into gold.

And the passing shades of sadness
 Wearing even a welcome guise,
 As, when some bright lake lies open
 To the sunny skies,

Every wing of bird above it,
 Every light cloud floating on,

Glitters like that flashing mirror
 In the selfsame sun.

But upon thy youthful forehead
 Something like a shadow lies ;
 And a serious soul is looking
 From thy earnest eyes.

With an early introversion,
 Through the forms of outward things
 Seeking for the subtle essence,
 And the hidden springs.

Deeper than the gilded surface
 Hath thy wakeful vision seen,
 Farther than the narrow present
 Have thy journeyings been.

Thou hast midst Life's empty noises
 Heard the solemn steps of Time,
 And the low mysterious voices
 Of another clime.

All the mystery of Being
 Hath upon thy spirit pressed, —
 Thoughts which, like the Deluge wan-
 derer,
 Find no place of rest :

That which mystic Plato pondered,
 That which Zeno heard with awe,
 And the star-rapt Zoroaster
 In his night-watch saw.

From the doubt and darkness spring-
 ing
 Of the dim, uncertain Past,
 Moving to the dark still shadows
 O'er the Future cast,

Early hath Life's mighty question
 Thrilled within thy heart of youth,
 With a deep and strong beseeching :
 WHAT and WHERE IS TRUTH ?

Hollow creed and ceremonial,
 Whence the ancient life hath fled,
 Idle faith unknown to action,
 Dull and cold and dead.

Oracles, whose wire-worked meanings,
 Only wake a quiet scorn, —
 Not from these thy seeking spirit
 Hath its answer drawn.

But, like some tired child at even,
On thy mother Nature's breast,
Thou, methinks, art vainly seeking
Truth, and peace, and rest.

O'er that mother's rugged features
Thou art throwing Fancy's veil,
Light and soft as woven moonbeams,
Beautiful and frail !

O'er the rough chart of Existence,
Rocks of sin and wastes of woe,
Soft airs breathe, and green leaves
tremble,
And cool fountains flow.

And to thee an answer cometh
From the earth and from the sky,
And to thee the hills and waters
And the stars reply.

But a soul-sufficing answer
Hath no outward origin ;
More than Nature's many voices
May be heard within.

Even as the great Augustine
Questioned earth and sea and sky,⁴⁰
And the dusty tomes of learning
And old poesy.

But his earnest spirit needed
More than outward Nature taught, —
More than blest the poet's vision
Or the sage's thought.

Only in the gathered silence
Of a calm and waiting frame
Light and wisdom as from Heaven
To the seeker came.

Not to ease and aimless quiet
Doth that inward answer tend,
But to works of love and duty
As our being's end, —

Not to idle dreams and trances,
Length of face, and solemn tone,
But to Faith, in daily striving
And performance shown.

Earnest toil and strong endeavor
Of a spirit which within
Wrestles with familiar evil
And besetting sin ;

And without, with tireless vigor,
Steady heart, and weapon strong,
In the power of truth assailing
Every form of wrong.

Guided thus, how passing lovely
Is the track of WOOLMAN's feet !
And his brief and simple record
How serenely sweet !

O'er life's humblest duties throwing
Light the earthling never knew,
Freshening all its dark waste places
As with Hermon's dew.

All which glows in Pascal's pages, —
All which sainted Guion sought,
Or the blue-eyed German Rahel
Half-unconscious taught : —

Beauty, such as Goethe pictured,
Such as Shelley dreamed of, shed
Living warmth and starry brightness
Round that poor man's head.

Not a vain and cold ideal,
Not a poet's dream alone,
But a presence warm and real,
Seen and felt and known.

When the red right-hand of slaughter
Moulders with the steel it swung,
When the name of seer and poet
Dies on Memory's tongue,

All bright thoughts and pure shall gather
Round that meek and suffering one, —
Glorious, like the seer-seen angel
Standing in the sun !

Take the good man's book and ponder
What its pages say to thee, —
Blessed as the hand of healing
May its lesson be.

If it only serves to strengthen
Yearnings for a higher good,
For the fount of living waters
And diviner food ;

If the pride of human reason
Feels its meek and still rebuke,
Quailing like the eye of Peter
From the Just One's look ! —

If with readier ear thou heedest
 What the Inward Teacher saith,
 Listening with a willing spirit
 And a childlike faith, —

Thou mayst live to bless the giver,
 Who, himself but frail and weak,
 Would at least the highest welfare
 Of another seek ;

And his gift, though poor and lowly
 It may seem to other eyes,
 Yet may prove an angel holy
 In a pilgrim's guise.

LEGGETT'S MONUMENT.

"Ye build the tombs of the prophets."
Holy Writ.
 Yes, — pile the marble o'er him ! It
 is well
 That ye who mocked him in his long
 stern strife,

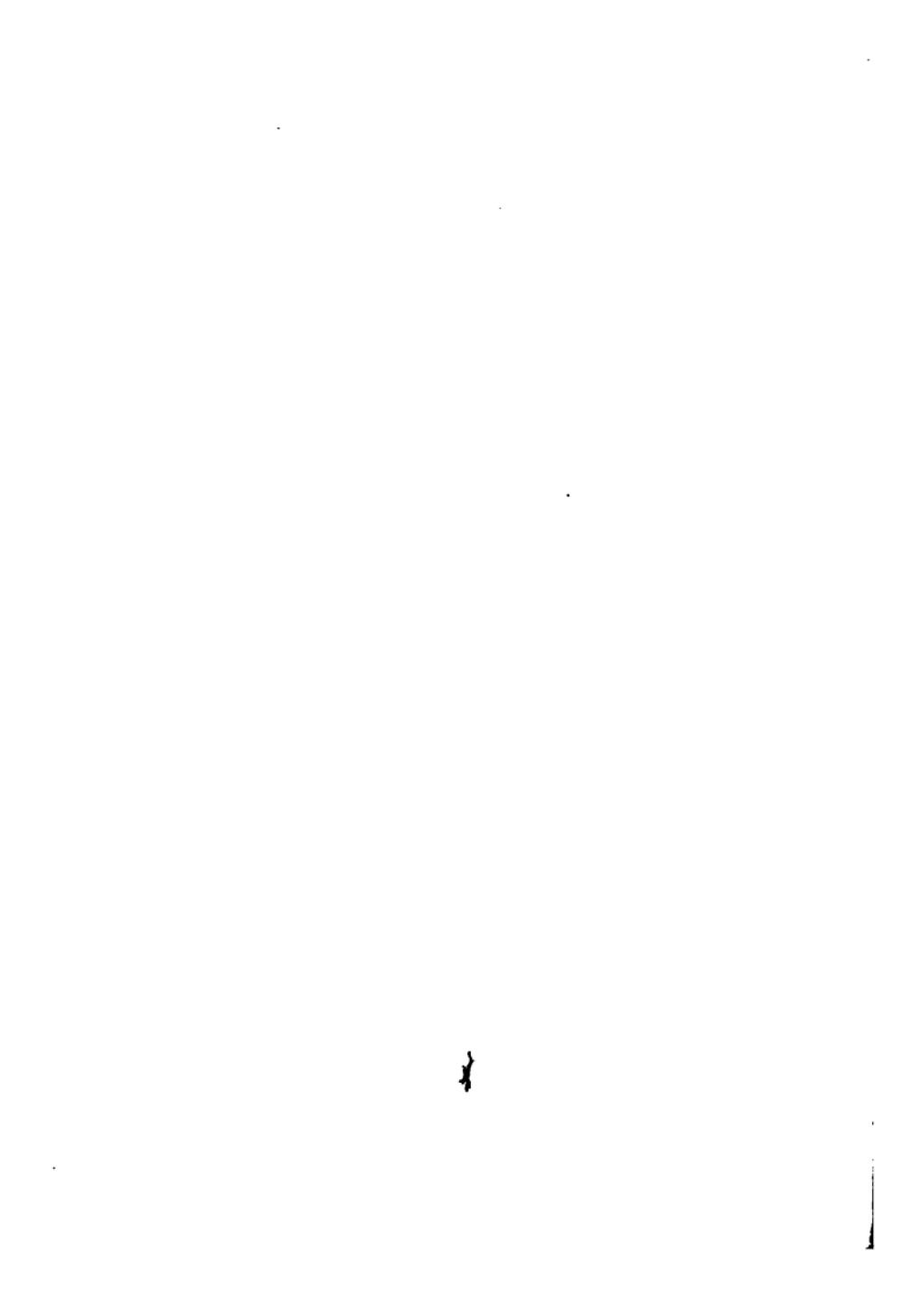
And planted in the pathway of his
 life
 The ploughshares of your hatred hot
 from hell,
 Who clamored down the bold re-
 former when
 He pleaded for his captive fellow-
 men,
 Who spurned him in the market-place,
 and sought
 Within thy walls, St. Tammany, to
 bind
 In party chains the free and honest
 thought,
 The angel utterance of an upright
 mind, —
 Well is it now that o'er his grave ye
 raise
 The stony tribute of your tardy
 praise,
 For not alone that pile shall tell to
 Fame
 Of the brave heart beneath, but of the
 builders' shame !

SONGS OF LABOR,

AND

OTHER POEMS.

1850.



SONGS OF LABOR.

DEDICATION.

I WOULD the gift I offer here
Might graces from thy favor take,
And, seen through Friendship's atmosphere,
On softened lines and coloring, wear
The unaccustomed light of beauty, for
thy sake.

Few leaves of Fancy's spring remain :
But what I have I give to thee, —
The o'er-sunned bloom of summer's plain,
And paler flowers, the latter rain
Calls from the westering slope of life's autumnal lea.

Above the fallen groves of green,
Where youth's enchanted forest stood,
Dry root and mossed trunk between,
A sober after-growth is seen,
As springs the pine where falls the gay-leaved maple wood !

Yet birds will sing, and breezes play
Their leaf-harps in the sombre tree ;
And through the bleak and wintry day
It keeps its steady green alway, —
So, even my after-thoughts may have a charm for thee.

Art's perfect forms no moral need,
And beauty is its own excuse ;⁴¹
But for the dull and flowerless weed
Some healing virtue still must plead,
And the rough ore must find its honors in its use.

So haply these, my simple lays
Of homely toil, may serve to show
The orchard bloom and tasseled maize
That skirt and gladden duty's ways,
The unsung beauty hid life's common things below.

Haply from them the toiler, bent
Above his forge or plough, may gain
A manlier spirit of content,
And feel that life is wisest spent
Where the strong working hand makes strong the working brain.

The doom which to the guilty pair
Without the walls of Eden came,
Transforming sinless ease to care
And rugged toil, no more shall bear
The burden of old crime, or mark of primal shame.

A blessing now, — a curse no more ;
Since He, whose name we breathe with awe,
The coarse mechanic vesture wore, —
A poor man toiling with the poor,
In labor, as in prayer, fulfilling the same law.

THE SHIP-BUILDERS.

THE sky is ruddy in the east,
The earth is gray below,
And, spectral in the river-mist,
The ship's white timbers show.
Then let the sounds of measured stroke
And grating saw begin ;

SONGS OF LABOR.

The broad-axe to the gnarled oak,
The mallet to the pin !

Hark !—roars the bellows, blast on
blast,
The sooty smithy jars,
And fire-sparks, rising far and fast,
Are fading with the stars.
All day for us the smith shall stand
Beside that flashing forge ;
All day for us his heavy hand
The groaning anvil scourge.

From far-off hills, the panting team
For us is toiling near ;
For us the raftsmen down the stream
Their island barges steer.
Rings out for us the axe-man's stroke
In forests old and still,—
For us the century-circled oak
Falls crashing down his hill.

Up !—up !—in nobler toil than ours
No craftsmen bear a part :
We make of Nature's giant powers
The slaves of human Art.
Lay rib to rib and beam to beam,
And drive the treenails free :
Nor faithless joint nor yawning seam
Shall tempt the searching sea !

Where'er the keel of our good ship
The sea's rough field shall plough,—
Where'er her tossing spars shall drip
With salt-spray caught below,—
That ship must heed her master's beck,
Her helm obey his hand,
And seamen tread her reeling deck
As if they trod the land.

Her oaken ribs the vulture-beak
Of Northern ice may peel :
The sunken rock and coral peak
May grate along her keel ;
And know we well the painted shell
We give to wind and wave,
Must float, the sailor's citadel,
Or sink, the sailor's grave !

Ho !—strike away the bars and blocks,
And set the good ship free !
Why lingers on these dusty rocks
The young bride of the sea ?

Look ! how she moves adown the
grooves,
In graceful beauty now !
How lowly on the breast she loves
Sinks down her virgin prow !

God bless her ! whereso'er the breeze
Her snowy wing shall fan,
Aside the frozen Hebrides,
Or sultry Hindostan !
Where'er, in mart or on the main,
With peaceful flag unfurled,
She helps to wind the silken chain
Of commerce round the world !

Speed on the ship !—But let her bear
No merchandise of sin,
No groaning cargo of despair
Her roomy hold within ;
No Lethean drug for Eastern lands,
Nor poison-draught for ours ;
But honest fruits of toiling hands
And Nature's sun and showers.

Be hers the Prairie's golden grain,
The Desert's golden sand,
The clustered fruits of sunny Spain,
The spice of Morning-land !
Her pathway on the open main
May blessings follow free,
And glad hearts welcome back again
Her white sails from the sea !

THE SHOEMAKERS.

Ho ! workers of the old time styled
The Gentle Craft of Leather !
Young brothers of the ancient guild,
Stand forth once more together !
Call out again your long array,
In the olden merry manner !
Once more, on gay St. Crispin's day,
Flung out your blazoned banner !

Rap, rap ! upon the well-worn stone
How falls the polished hammer !
Rap, rap ! the measured sound has
grown
A quick and merry clamor.
Now shape the sole ! now deftly curl
The glossy vamp around it,
And bless the while the bright-eyed girl
Whose gentle fingers bound it !

For you, along the Spanish main
 A hundred keels are ploughing ;
 For you, the Indian on the plain
 His lasso-coil is throwing ;
 For you, deep glens with hemlock dark
 The woodman's fire is lighting ;
 For you, upon the oak's gray bark,
 The woodman's axe is smiting.

For you, from Carolina's pine
 The rosin-gum is stealing ;
 For you, the dark-eyed Florentine
 Her silken skein is reeling ;
 For you, the dizzy goatherd roams
 His rugged Alpine ledges ;
 For you, round all her shepherd homes,
 Bloom England's thorny hedges.

The foremost still, by day or night,
 On moated mound or heather,
 Where'er the need of trampled right
 Brought toiling men together ;
 Where the free burghers from the wall
 Defied the mail-clad master,
 Than yours, at Freedom's trumpet-call,
 No craftsmen rallied faster.

Let foplings sneer, let fools deride, —
 Ye heed no idle scorner ;
 Free hands and hearts are still your
 pride,
 And duty done, your honor.
 Ye dare to trust, for honest fame,
 The jury Time empanels,
 And leave to truth each noble name
 Which glorifies your annals.

Thy songs, Han Sachs, are living yet,
 In strong and hearty German ;
 And Bloomfield's lay, and Gifford's wit,
 And patriot fame of Sherman ;
 Still from his book, a mystic seer,
 The soul of Behmen teaches,
 And England's priestcraft shakes to
 hear
 Of Fox's leathern breeches.

The foot is yours ; where'er it falls,
 It treads your well-wrought leather,
 On earthen floor, in marble halls,
 On carpet, or on heather.
 Still there the sweetest charm is found
 Of matron grace or vestal's,
 As Hebe's foot bore nectar round
 Among the old celestials !

Rap, rap ! — your stout and bluff bro-
 gan,
 With footsteps slow and weary,
 May wander where the sky's blue span
 Shuts down upon the prairie.
 On Beauty's foot, your slippers glance,
 By Saratoga's fountains,
 Or twinkle down the summer dance
 Beneath the Crystal Mountains !

The red brick to the mason's hand,
 The brown earth to the tiller's,
 The shoe in yours shall wealth com-
 mand,
 Like fairy Cinderella's !
 As they who shunned the household
 maid
 Beheld the crown upon her,
 So all shall see your toil repaid
 With hearth and home and honor.

Then let the toast be freely quaffed,
 In water cool and brimming, —
 " All honor to the good old Craft,
 Its merry men and women ! "
 Call out again your long array,
 In the old time's pleasant manner :
 Once more, on gay St. Crispin's day,
 Fling out his blazoned banner !

THE DROVERS.

THROUGH heat and cold, and shower
 and sun,
 Still onward cheerly driving !
 There's life alone in duty done,
 And rest alone in striving.
 But see ! the day is closing cool,
 The woods are dim before us ;
 The white fog of the wayside pool
 Is creeping slowly o'er us.

The night is falling, comrades mine,
 Our foot-sore beasts are weary.
 And through yon elms the tavern sign
 Looks out upon us cheery.
 The landlord beckons from his door,
 His beechen fire is glowing ;
 These ample barns, with feed in store,
 Are filled to overflowing.

From many a valley frowned across
By brows of rugged mountains ;
From hillsides where, through spongy
moss,
Gush out the river fountains ;
From quiet farm-fields, green and low,
And bright with blooming clover ;
From vales of corn the wandering crow
No richer hovers over ;

Day after day our way has been,
O'er many a hill and hollow ;
By lake and stream, by wood and glen,
Our stately drove we follow.
Through dust-clouds rising thick and
dun,
As smoke of battle o'er us,
Their white horns glisten in the sun,
Like plumes and crests before us.

We see them slowly climb the hill,
As slow behind it sinking ;
Or, thronging close, from roadside rill,
Or sunny lakelet, drinking.
Now crowding in the narrow road,
In thick and struggling masses,
They glare upon the teamster's load,
Or rattling coach that passes.

Anon, with toss of horn and tail,
And paw of hoof, and bellow,
They leap some farmer's broken pale,
O'er meadow-close or fallow.
Forth comes the startled goodman ;
forth
Wife, children, house-dog, sally,
Till once more on their dusty path
The baffled truants rally.

We drive no starvelings, scraggy grown,
Loose-legged, and ribbed and bony,
Like those who grind their noses down
On pastures bare and stony, —
Lank oxen, rough as Indian dogs,
And cows too lean for shadows,
Disputing feebly with the frogs
The crop of saw-grass meadows !

In our good drove, so sleek and fair,
No bones of leanness rattle ;
No tottering hide-bound ghosts are
there,
Or Pharaoh's evil cattle.

Each stately beeve bespeaks the hand
That fed him unrepining ;
The fatness of a goodly land
In each dun hide is shining.

We've sought them where, in warmest
nooks,
The freshest feed is growing,
By sweetest springs and clearest brooks
Through honeysuckle flowing ;
Wherever hillsides, sloping south,
Are bright with early grasses,
Or, tracking green the lowland's drouth,
The mountain streamlet passes.

But now the day is closing cool,
The woods are dim before us,
The white fog of the wayside pool
Is creeping slowly o'er us.
The cricket to the frog's bassoon
His shrillest time is keeping ;
The sickle of yon setting moon
The meadow-mist is reaping.

The night is falling, comrades mine,
Our footsore beasts are weary,
And through yon elms the tavern sign
Looks out upon us cheery.
To-morrow, eastward with our charge
We'll go to meet the dawning.
Ere yet the pines of Kéarsarge
Have seen the sun of morning.

When snow-flakes o'er the frozen earth,
Instead of birds, are flitting ;
When children throng the glowing
hearth,
And quiet wives are knitting ;
While in the fire-light strong and clear
Young eyes of pleasure glisten,
To tales of all we see and hear
The ears of home shall listen.

By many a Northern lake and hill,
From many a mountain pasture,
Shall Fancy play the Drover still,
And speed the long night faster.
Then let us on, through shower and
sun,
And heat and cold, be driving ;
There's life alone in duty done,
And rest alone in striving.

THE FISHERMEN.

HURRAH ! the seaward breezes
 Sweep down the bay ámain ;
 Heave up, my lads, the anchor !
 Run up the sail again !
 Leave to the lubber landsmen
 The rail-car and the steed ;
 The stars of heaven shall guide us,
 The breath of heaven shall speed.
 From the hill-top looks the steeple,
 And the lighthouse from the sand ;
 And the scattered pines are waving
 Their farewell from the land.
 One glance, my lads, behind us,
 For the homes we leave one sigh,
 Ere we take the change and chances
 Of the ocean and the sky.
 Now, brothers, for the icebergs
 Of frozen Labrador,
 Floating spectral in the moonshine,
 Along the low, black shore !
 Where like snow the gannet's feathers
 On Brador's rocks are shed,
 And the noisy murr are flying,
 Like black scuds, overhead ;
 Where in mist the rock is hiding,
 And the sharp reef lurks below,
 And the white squall smites in summer,
 And the autumn tempests blow ;
 Where, through gray and rolling vapor,
 From evening unto morn,
 A thousand boats are hailing,
 Horn answering unto horn.
 Hurrah ! for the Red Island,
 With the white cross on its crown !
 Hurrah ! for Meccatina,
 And its mountains bare and brown !
 Where the Caribou's tall antlers
 O'er the dwarf-wood freely toss,
 And the footstep of the Mickmack
 Has no sound upon the moss.

There we 'll drop our lines, and gather
 Old Ocean's treasures in,
 Where'er the mottled mackerel
 Turns up a steel-dark fin.
 The sea 's our field of harvest,
 Its scaly tribes our grain ;
 We 'll reap the teeming waters
 As at home they reap the plain !

Our wet hands spread the carpet,
 And light the hearth of home ;
 From our fish, as in the old time,
 The silver coin shall come.
 As the demon fled the chamber
 Where the fish of Tobit lay,
 So ours from all our dwellings
 Shall frighten Want away.

Though the mist upon our jackets
 In the bitter air congeals,
 And our lines wind stiff and slowly
 From off the frozen reels ;
 Though the fog be dark around us,
 And the storm blow high and loud,
 We will whistle down the wild wind,
 And laugh beneath the cloud !

In the darkness as in daylight,
 On the water as on land,
 God's eye is looking on us,
 And beneath us is his hand !
 Death will find us soon or later,
 On the deck or in the cot ;
 And we cannot meet him better
 Than in working out our lot.

Hurrah ! — hurrah ! — the west-wind
 Comes freshening down the bay,
 The rising sails are filling, —
 Give way, my lads, give way !
 Leave the coward landsman clinging
 To the dull earth, like a weed, —
 The stars of heaven shall guide us,
 The breath of heaven shall speed !

THE HUSKERS.

IT was late in mild October, and the long autumnal rain
 Had left the summer harvest-fields all green with grass again ;
 The first sharp frosts had fallen, leaving all the woodlands gay
 With the hues of summer's rainbow, or the meadow-flowers of May.

Through a thin, dry mist, that morning, the sun rose broad and red,
At first a rayless disk of fire, he brightened as he sped ;
Yet, even his noontide glory fell chastened and subdued,
On the cornfields and the orchards, and softly pictured wood.

And all that quiet afternoon, slow sloping to the night,
He wove with golden shuttle the haze with yellow light ;
Slanting through the painted beeches, he glorified the hill ;
And, beneath it, pond and meadow lay brighter, greener still.

And shouting boys in woodland haunts caught glimpses of that sky,
Flecked by the many-tinted leaves, and laughed, they knew not why ;
And school-girls, gay with aster-flowers, beside the meadow brooks,
Mingled the glow of autumn with the sunshine of sweet looks.

From spire and barn, looked westerly the patient weathercocks ;
But even the birches on the hill stood motionless as rocks.
No sound was in the woodlands, save the squirrel's dropping shell,
And the yellow leaves among the boughs, low rustling as they fell.

The summer grains were harvested : the stubble-fields lay dry,
Where June winds rolled, in light and shade, the pale green waves of rye
But still, on gentle hill-slopes, in valleys fringed with wood,
Ungathered, bleaching in the sun, the heavy corn crop stood.

Bent low, by autumn's wind and rain, through husks that, dry and sere,
Unfolded from their ripened charge, shone out the yellow ear ;
Beneath, the turnip lay concealed, in many a verdant fold,
And glistened in the slanting light the pumpkin's sphere of gold.

There wrought the busy harvesters ; and many a creaking wain
Bore slowly to the long barn-floor its load of husk and grain ;
Till broad and red, as when he rose, the sun sank down, at last,
And like a merry guest's farewell, the day in brightness passed.

And lo ! as through the western pines, on meadow, stream, and pond,
Flamed the red radiance of a sky, set all afire beyond,
Slowly o'er the eastern sea-bluffs a milder glory shone,
And the sunset and the moonrise were mingled into one !

As thus into the quiet night the twilight lapsed away,
And deeper in the brightening moon the tranquil shadows lay ;
From many a brown old farm-house, and hamlet without name,
Their milking and their home-tasks done, the merry huskers came.

Swung o'er the heaped-up harvest, from pitchforks in the mow,
Shone dimly down the lanterns on the pleasant scene below ;
The growing pile of husks behind, the golden ears before,
And laughing eyes and busy hands and brown cheeks glimmering o'er.

Half hidden in a quiet nook, serene of look and heart,
Talking their old times over, the old men sat apart ;
While, up and down the unhusked pile, or nestling in its shade,
At hide-and-seek, with laugh and shout, the happy children played.

Urged by the good host's daughter, a maiden young and fair,
Lifting to light her sweet blue eyes and pride of soft brown hair,
The master of the village school, sleek of hair and smooth of tongue,
To the quaint tune of some old psalm, a husking-ballad sung.

THE CORN-SONG.

HEAP high the farmer's wintry hoard !
Heap high the golden corn !
No richer gift has Autumn poured
From out her lavish horn !

Let other lands, exulting, glean
The apple from the pine,
The orange from its glossy green,
The cluster from the vine ;

We better love the hardy gift
Our rugged vales bestow,
To cheer us when the storm shall drift
Our harvest-fields with snow.

Through vales of grass and meads of flowers,
Our ploughs their furrows made,
While on the hills the sun and showers
Of changeable April played.

We dropped the seed o'er hill and plain,
Beneath the sun of May,
And frightened from our sprouting grain
The robber crows away.

All through the long, bright days of June
Its leaves grew green and fair,
And waved in hot midsummer's noon
Its soft and yellow hair.

And now, with autumn's moonlit eves,
Its harvest-time has come,
We pluck away the frosted leaves,
And bear the treasure home.

There, richer than the fabled gift
Apollo showered of old,
Fair hands the broken grain shall sift,
And knead its meal of gold.

Let vapid idlers loll in silk
Around their costly board ;

Give us the bowl of samp and milk,
By homespun beauty poured !

Where'er the wide old kitchen hearth
Sends up its smoky curls,
Who will not thank the kindly earth,
And bless our farmer girls !

Then shame on all the proud and vain,
Whose folly laughs to scorn
The blessing of our hardy grain,
Our wealth of golden corn !

Let earth withhold her goodly root,
Let mildew blight the rye,
Give to the worm the orchard's fruit,
The wheat-field to the fly :

But let the good old crop adorn
The hills our fathers trod ;
Still let us, for his golden corn,
Send up our thanks to God !

THE LUMBERMEN.

WILDLY round our woodland quarters,
Sad-voiced Autumn grieves ;
Thickly down these swelling waters
Float his fallen leaves.
Through the tall and naked timber,
Column-like and old,
Gleam the sunsets of November,
From their skies of gold.

O'er us, to the southland heading,
Screams the gray wild-goose ;
On the night-frost sounds the treading
Of the brindled moose.
Noiseless creeping, while we're sleep-
ing,
Frost his task-work plies ;
Soon, his icy bridges heaping,
Shall our log-piles rise.

When, with sounds of smothered thunder,
On some night of rain,
Lake and river break asunder
Winter's weakened chain,
Down the wild March flood shall bear them
To the saw-mill's wheel,
Or where Steam, the slave, shall tear them
With his teeth of steel.

Be it starlight, be it moonlight,
In these vales below,
When the earliest beams of sunlight
Streak the mountain's snow,
Crisps the hoar-frost, keen and early,
To our hurrying feet,
And the forest echoes clearly
All our blows repeat.

Where the crystal Ambijejis
Stretches broad and clear,
And Millnoket's pine-black ridges
Hide the browsing deer :
Where, through lakes and wide morasses,
Or through rocky walls,
Swift and strong, Penobscot passes
White with foamy falls ;

Where, through clouds, are glimpses given
Of Katahdin's sides, —
Rock and forest piled to heaven,
Torn and ploughed by slides !
Far below, the Indian trapping,
In the sunshine warm ;
Far above, the snow-cloud wrapping
Half the peak in storm !

Where are mossy carpets better
Than the Persian weaves,
And than Eastern perfumes sweeter
Seem the fading leaves ;
And a music wild and solemn,
From the pine-tree's height,
Rolls its vast and sea-like volume
On the wind of night ;

Make we here our camp of winter ;
And, through sleet and snow,
Pitchy knot and beechen splinter
On our hearth shall glow.

Here, with mirth to lighten duty,
We shall lack alone
Woman's smile and girlhood's beauty,
Childhood's lisping tone.

But their hearth is brighter burning
For our toil to-day ;
And the welcome of returning
Shall our loss repay,
When, like seamen from the waters,
From the woods we come,
Greeting sisters, wives, and daughters
Angels of our home !

Not for us the measured ringing
From the village spire,
Not for us the Sabbath singing
Of the sweet-voiced choir :
Ours the old, majestic temple,
Where God's brightness shines
Down the dome so grand and ample,
Propped by lofty pines !

Through each branch-enwoven sky-light,
Speaks He in the breeze,
As of old beneath the twilight
Of lost Eden's trees !
For his ear, the inward feeling
Needs no outward tongue :
He can see the spirit kneeling
While the axe is swung.

Heeding truth alone, and turning
From the false and dim,
Lamp of toil or altar burning
Are alike to Him.
Strike, then, comrades ! — Trade waiting
On our rugged toil ;
Far ships waiting for the freighting
Of our woodland spoil !

Ships, whose traffic links these highlands,
Bleak and cold, of ours,
With the citron-planted islands
Of a clime of flowers ;
To our frosts the tribute bringing
Of eternal heats ;
In our lap of winter flinging
Tropic fruits and sweets.

Cheerly, on the axe of labor,
 Let the sunbeams dance,
 Better than the flash of sabre
 Or the gleam of lance !
 Strike ! — With every blow is given
 Freer sun and sky,
 And the long-hid earth to heaven
 Looks, with wondering eye !

Loud behind us grow the murmurs
 Of the age to come ;
 Clang of smiths, and tread of farmers,
 Bearing harvest home !
 Here her virgin lap with treasures
 Shall the green earth fill ;
 Waving wheat and golden maize-ears
 Crown each beechen hill.

Keep who will the city's alleys,
 Take the smooth-shorn plain, —
 Give to us the cedar valleys,
 Rocks and hills of Maine !

In our North-land, wild and woody,
 Let us still have part :
 Rugged nurse and mother sturdy,
 Hold us to thy heart !

O, our free hearts beat the warmer
 For thy breath of snow ;
 And our tread is all the firmer
 For thy rocks below.
 Freedom, hand in hand with labor,
 Walketh strong and brave ;
 On the forehead of his neighbor
 No man writeth Slave !

Lo, the day breaks ! old Katahdin's
 Pine-trees show its fires,
 While from these dim forest gardens
 Rise their blackened spires.
 Up, my comrades ! up and doing !
 Manhood's rugged play
 Still renewing, bravely hewing
 Through the world our way !

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE ANGELS OF BUENA VISTA.

SPEAK and tell us, our Ximena, looking northward far away,
 O'er the camp of the invaders, o'er the Mexican array,
 Who is losing ? who is winning ? are they far or come they near ?
 Look abroad, and tell us, sister, whither rolls the storm we hear.

" Down the hills of Angostura still the storm of battle rolls :
 Blood is flowing, men are dying ; God have mercy on their souls ! "
 Who is losing ? who is winning ? — " Over hill and over plain,
 I see but smoke of cannon clouding through the mountain rain."

Holy Mother ! keep our brothers ! Look, Ximena, look once more.
 " Still I see the fearful whirlwind rolling darkly as before,
 Bearing on, in strange confusion, friend and foeman, foot and horse,
 Like some wild and troubled torrent sweeping down its mountain course."

Look forth once more, Ximena ! " Ah ! the smoke has rolled away ;
 And I see the Northern rifles gleaming down the ranks of gray.
 Hark ! that sudden blast of bugles ! there the troop of Minon wheels ;
 There the Northern horses thunder, with the cannon at their heels.

" Jesu, pity ! how it thickens ! now retreat and now advance !
 Right against the blazing cannon shivers Puebla's charging lance !
 Down they go, the brave young riders ; horse and foot together fall ;
 Like a ploughshare in the fallow, through them ploughs the Northern ball."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Nearer came the storm and nearer, rolling fast and frightful on !
 Speak, Ximena, speak and tell us, who has lost, and who has won ?
 "Alas ! alas ! I know not ; friend and foe together fall,
 O'er the dying rush the living : pray, my sisters, for them all !

"Lo ! the wind the smoke is lifting : Blessed Mother, save my brain !
 I can see the wounded crawling slowly out from heaps of slain.
 Now they stagger, blind and bleeding : now they fall, and strive to rise ;
 Hasten, sisters, haste and save them, lest they die before our eyes !

"O my heart's love ! O my dear one ! lay thy poor head on my knee :
 Dost thou know the lips that kiss thee ? Canst thou hear me ? canst thou ~~see~~ ?
 O my husband, brave and gentle ! O my Bernal, look once more
 On the blessed cross before thee ! Mercy ! mercy ! all is o'er !"

Dry thy tears, my poor Ximena ; lay thy dear one down to rest ;
 Let his hands be meekly folded, lay the cross upon his breast ;
 Let his dirge be sung hereafter, and his funeral masses said :
 To-day, thou poor bereaved one, the living ask thy aid.

Close beside her, faintly moaning, fair and young, a soldier lay,
 Torn with shot and pierced with lances, bleeding slow his life away ;
 But, as tenderly before him, the lorn Ximena knelt,
 She saw the Northern eagle shining on his pistol-belt.

With a stifled cry of horror straight she turned away her head ;
 With a sad and bitter feeling looked she back upon her dead ;
 But she heard the youth's low moaning, and his struggling breath of pain,
 And she raised the cooling water to his parching lips again.

Whispered low the dying soldier, pressed her hand and faintly smiled :
 Was that pitying face his mother's ? did she watch beside her child ?
 All his stranger words with meaning her woman's heart supplied :
 With her kiss upon his forehead, "Mother !" murmured he, and died !

"A bitter curse upon them, poor boy, who led thee forth,
 From some gentle, sad-eyed mother, weeping, lonely, in the North !"
 Spake the mournful Mexic woman, as she laid him with her dead,
 And turned to soothe the living, and bind the wounds which bled.

Look forth once more, Ximena ! "Like a cloud before the wind
 Rolls the battle down the mountains, leaving blood and death behind ;
 Ah ! they plead in vain for mercy ; in the dust the wounded strive ;
 Hide your faces, holy angels ! oh thou Christ of God, forgive !"

Sink, O Night, among thy mountains ! let the cool, gray shadows fall ;
 Dying brothers, fighting demons, drop thy curtain over all !
 Through the thickening winter twilight, wide apart the battle rolled,
 In its sheath the sabre rested, and the cannon's lips grew cold.

But the noble Mexic women still their holy task pursued,
 Through that long, dark night of sorrow, worn and faint and lacking food
 Over weak and suffering brothers, with a tender care they hung,
 And the dying foeman blessed them in a strange and Northern tongue.

Not wholly lost, O Father ! is this evil world of ours ;
 Upward, through its blood and ashes, spring afresh the Eden flowers ;
 From its smoking hell of battle, Love and Pity send their prayer,
 And still thy white-winged angels hover dimly in our air !

FORGIVENESS.

My heart was heavy, for its trust had
 been
 Abused, its kindness answered with
 foul wrong ;
 So, turning gloomily from my fellow-
 men,
 One summer Sabbath day I strolled
 among
 The green mounds of the village bur-
 ial-place ;
 Where, pondering how all human
 love and hate
 Find one sad level; and how, soon
 or late,
 Wronged and wrongdoer, each with
 neekened face,
 And cold hands folded over a still
 heart,
 Pass the green threshold of our com-
 mon grave,
 Whither all footsteps tend, whence
 none depart,
 Awed for myself, and pitying my race,
 Our common sorrow, like a mighty
 wave,
 Swept all my pride away, and trembling
 I forgave !

BARCLAY OF URY.⁴⁴

Up the streets of Aberdeen,
 By the kirk and college green,
 Rode the Laird of Ury ;
 Close behind him, close beside,
 Foul of mouth and evil-eyed,
 Pressed the mob in fury.
 Flouted him the drunken churl,
 Jeered at him the serving-girl,
 Prompt to please her master ;
 And the begging carlin, late
 Fed and clothed at Ury's gate,
 Cursed him as he passed her.

Yet, with calm and stately mien,
 Up the streets of Aberdeen
 Came he slowly riding :
 And, to all he saw and heard,
 Answering not with bitter word,
 Turning not for chiding.
 Came a troop with broadswords swing-
 ing,
 Bits and bridles sharply ringing,
 Loose and free and froward ;
 Quoth the foremost, " Ride him down !
 Push him ! prick him ! through the town
 Drive the Quaker coward ! "

But from out the thickening crowd
 Cried a sudden voice and loud :
 " Barclay ! Ho ! a Barclay ! "
 And the old man at his side
 Saw a comrade, battle tried,
 Scarred and sun-burned darkly ;

Who with ready weapon bare,
 Fronting to the troopers there,
 Cried aloud : " God save us,
 Call ye coward him who stood
 Ankle deep in Lutzen's blood,
 With the brave Gustavus ? "

" Nay, I do not need thy sword,
 Comrade mine," said Ury's lord ;
 " Put it up, I pray thee :
 Passive to his holy will,
 Trust I in my Master still,
 Even though he slay me.

" Pledges of thy love and faith,
 Proved on many a field of death,
 Not by me are needed."
 Marvelled much that henchman bold,
 That his laird, so stout of old,
 Now so meekly pleaded.

" Woe 's the day ! " he sadly said,
 With a slowly-shaking head,
 And a look of pity ;
 " Ury's honest lord reviled,

Mock of knave and sport of child,
In his own good city !

" Speak the word, and, master mine,
As we charged on Tilly's line,
And his Walloon lancers,
Smiting through their midst we 'll teach
Civil look and decent speech
To these boyish prancers ! "

" Marvel not, mine ancient friend,
Like beginning, like the end " :
Quoth the Laird of Ury,
" Is the sinful servant more
Than his gracious Lord who bore
Bonds and stripes in Jewry ?

" Give me joy that in his name
I can bear, with patient frame,
All these vain ones offer ;
While for them He suffereth long,
Shall I answer wrong with wrong,
Scorning with the scoffer ?

" Happier I, with loss of all,
Hunted, outlawed, held in thrall,
With few friends to greet me,
Than when reeve and squire were seen,
Riding out from Aberdeen,
With bared heads to meet me.

" When each goodwife, o'er and o'er,
Blessed me as I passed her door ;
And the snooded daughter,
Through her casement glancing down,
Smiled on him who bore renown
From red fields of slaughter.

" Hard to feel the stranger's scoff,
Hard the old friend's falling off,
Hard to learn forgiving :
But the Lord his own rewards,
And his love with theirs accords,
Warm and fresh and living.

" Through this dark and stormy night
Faith beholds a feeble light
Up the blackness streaking ;
Knowing God's own time is best,
In a patient hope I rest
For the full day-breaking ! "

So the Laird of Ury said,
Turning slow his horse's head

Towards the Tolbooth prison,
Where, through iron grates, he heard
Poor disciples of the Word
Preach of Christ arisen !

Not in vain, Confessor old,
Unto us the tale is told
Of thy day of trial ;
Every age on him, who strays
From its broad and beaten ways,
Pours its sevenfold vial.

Happy he whose inward ear
Angel comfortings can hear,
O'er the rabble's laughter ;
And, while Hatred's fagots burn,
Glimpses through the smoke discern
Of the good hereafter.

Knowing this, that never yet
Share of Truth was vainly set
In the world's wide fallow ;
After hands shall sow the seed,
After hands from hill and mead
Reap the harvests yellow.

Thus, with somewhat of the Seer,
Must the moral pioneer
From the Future borrow :
Clothe the waste with dreams of grain,
And, on midnight's sky of rain,
Paint the golden morrow !

WHAT THE VOICE SAID.

MADDENED by Earth's wrong and evil,
" Lord ! " I cried in sudden ire,
" From thy right hand, clothed with
thunder,
Shake the bolted fire !

" Love is lost, and Faith is dying :
With the brute the man is sold ;
And the dropping blood of labor
Hardens into gold.

" Here the dying wail of Famine,
There the battle's groan of pain :
And, in silence, smooth-faced Mammon
Reaping men like grain.

"Where is God, that we should fear
Him?"

Thus the earth-born Titans say ;
"God ! if thou art living, hear us !"
"Thus the weak ones pray "

"Thou, the patient Heaven upbraiding,"

Spake a solemn Voice within ;
"Weary of our Lord's forbearance,
Art thou free from sin ?"

"Fearless brow to Him uplifting,
Canst thou for his thunders call,
Knowing that to guilt's attraction
Evermore they fall ?"

"Know'st thou not all germs of evil
In thy heart await their time ?
Not thyself, but God's restraining,
Stays their growth of crime."

"Couldst thou boast, O child of weakness !

O'er the sons of wrong and strife,
Were their strong temptations planted
In thy path of life ?

"Thou hast seen two streamlets gushing-

From one fountain, clear and free,
But by widely varying channels
Searching for the sea.

"Glideth one through greenest valleys,
Kissing them with lips still sweet ;
One, mad roaring down the mountains,
Stagnates at their feet.

"Is it choice whereby the Parsee
Kneels before his mother's fire ?
In his black tent did the Tartar
Choose his wandering sire ?

"He alone, whose hand is bounding
Human power and human will,
Looking through each soul's surrounding,
Knows its good or ill.

"For thyself, while wrong and sorrow
Male to thee their strong appeal,
Coward wert thou not to utter
What the heart must feel.

"Earnest words must needs be spoken
When the warm heart bleeds or burns
With its scorn of wrong, or pity
For the wronged, by turns.

"But, by all thy nature's weakness,
Hidden faults and follies known,
Be thou, in rebuking evil,
Conscious of thine own.

"Not the less shall stern-eyed Duty
To thy lips her trumpet set,
But with harsher blasts shall mingle
Wailings of regret."

Cease not, Voice of holy speaking,
Teacher sent of God, be near,
Whispering through the day's cool
silence,
Let my spirit hear !

So, when thoughts of evil-doers
Waken scorn, or hatred move,
Shall a mournful fellow-feeling
Temper all with love.

TO DELAWARE.

[Written during the discussion in the Legislature of that State, in the winter of 1846-47, of a bill for the abolition of slavery.]

THRICE welcome to thy sisters of the
East,
To the strong tillers of a rugged home,
With spray-wet locks to Northern winds
released,
And hardy feet o'erswept by ocean's
foam ;
And to the young nymphs of the golden
West,
Whose harvest mantles, fringed with
prairie bloom,
Trail in the sunset, — O redeemed
and blest,
To the warm welcome of thy sisters
come !
Broad Pennsylvania, down her sail-
white bay
Shall give thee joy, and Jersey from
her plains,

And the great lakes, where echo, free
 alway,
 Moaned never shoreward with the
 clank of chains,
Shall weave new sun-bows in their
 tossing spray,
And all their waves keep grateful holi-
 day.
And, smiling on thee through her
 mountain rains,
 Vermont shall bless thee; and the
 Granite peaks,
And vast Katahdin o'er his woods,
 shall wear
Their snow-crowns brighter in the cold
 keen air;
 And Massachusetts, with her rugged
 cheeks
O'errun with grateful tears, shall turn
 to thee,
 When, at thy bidding, the electric
 wire
 Shall tremble northward with its
 words of fire:
Glory and praise to God! another State
 is free!

WORSHIP.

"Pure religion, and undefiled, before
God and the Father is this: To visit the
widows and the fatherless in their affliction,
and to keep himself unspotted from the
world."—James i. 27.

- THE Pagan's myths through marble
 lips are spoken,
- And ghosts of old Beliefs still flit and
 moan
- Round fane and altar overthrown and
 broken,
- O'er tree-grown barrow and gray ring
 of stone.
- Blind Faith had martyrs in those old
 high places,
- The Syrian hill grove and the Druid's
 wood,
- With mother's offering, to the Fiend's
 embraces,
- Bone of their bone, and blood of their
 own blood.

Red altars, kindling through that night
 of error,
 Smoked with warm blood beneath the
 cruel eye
Of lawless Power and sanguinary Ter-
 ror,
 Throned on the circle of a pitiless
 sky;

Beneath whose baleful shadow, over-
 casting
 All heaven above, and blighting earth
 below,
The scourge grew red, the lip grew
 pale with fasting,
 And man's oblation was his fear and
 woe!

Then through great temples swelled the
 dismal moaning
 Of dirge-like music and sepulchral
 prayer;
Pale wizard priests, o'er occult symbols
 droning,
 Swung their white censers in the bur-
 dened air:

As if the pomp of rituals, and the
 savor
 Of gums and spices could the Unseen
 One please;
As if his ear could bend, with childish
 favor,
 To the poor flattery of the organ keys!

Feet red from war-fields trod the church
 aisles holy,
 With trembling reverence: and the
 oppressor there,
Kneeling before his priest, abased and
 lowly,
 Crushed human hearts beneath his
 knee of prayer.

Not such the service the benignant
 Father
 Requireth at his earthly children's
 hands:
Not the poor offering of vain rites, but
 rather
 The simple duty man from man de-
 mands.

For Earth he asks it : the full joy of
Heaven
Knoweth no change of waning or
increase ;
The great heart of the Infinite beats
even,
Untroubled flows the river of his
peace.

He asks no taper lights, on high sur-
rounding
The priestly altar and the saintly
grave,
No dolorous chant nor organ music
sounding,
Nor incense clouding up the twilight
nave.

For he whom Jesus loved hath truly
spoken :
The holier worship which he deigns
to bless
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit
broken,
And feeds the widow and the father-
less !

Types of our human weakness and our
sorrow !
Who lives unhaunted by his loved ones
dead ?
Who, with vain longing, seeketh not to
borrow
From stranger eyes the home lights
which have fled ?

O brother man ! fold to thy heart thy
brother ;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God
is there ;
To worship rightly is to love each
other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed
a prayer.

Follow with reverent steps the great
example
Of Him whose holy work was "doing
good" ;
So shall the wide earth seem our Fa-
ther's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall ; the stormy
clangor
Of wild war music o'er the earth shall
cease ;
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of
anger,
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace ?

THE DEMON OF THE STUDY.

The Brownie sits in the Scotchman's
room,
And eats his meat and drinks his ale,
And beats the maid with her unused
broom,
And the lazy lout with his idle flail,
But he sweeps the floor and threshes
the corn,
And hies him away ere the break of
dawn.

The shade of Denmark fled from the sun,
And the Cocklane ghost from the
barnloft cheer,
The fiend of Faust was a faithful one,
Arippa's demon wrought in fear,
And the devil of Martin Luther sat
By the stout monk's side in social chat.

The Old Man of the Sea, on the neck
of him
Who seven times crossed the deep,
Twined closely each lean and withered
limb,
Like the nightmare in one's sleep.
But he drank of the wine, and Sinbad
cast
The evil weight from his back at last.

But the demon that cometh day by day
To my quiet room and fireside nook,
Where the casement light falls dim and
gray
On faded painting and ancient book,
Is a sorrier one than any whose names
Are chronicled well by good king James.
No bearer of burdens like Caliban,
No runner of errands like Ariel,
He comes in the shape of a fat old man,
Without rap of knuckle or pull of
bell ;

And whence he comes, or whither he goes,
I know as I do of the wind which blows.

A stout old man with a greasy hat
Slouched heavily down to his dark, red nose;
And two gray eyes enveloped in fat,
Looking through glasses with iron bows.

Read ye, and heed ye, and ye who can,
Guard well your doors from that old man!

He comes with a careless "How d' ye do?"

And seats himself in my elbow-chair;
And my morning paper and pamphlet new

Fall forthwith under his special care,
And he wipes his glasses and clears his throat,
And, button by button, unfolds his coat.

And then he reads from paper and book,
In a low and husky asthmatic tone,
With the stolid sameness of posture and look

Of one who reads to himself alone;
And hour after hour on my senses come
That husky wheeze and that dolorous hum.

The price of stocks, the auction sales,
The poet's song and the lover's glee,
The horrible murders, the seaboard gales,

The marriage list, and the *jeu d'esprit*,
All reach my ear in the selfsame tone,—
I shudder at each, but the fiend reads on!

O, sweet as the lapse of water at noon
O'er the mossy roots of some forest tree,
The sigh of the wind in the woods of June,
Or sound of flutes o'er a moonlight sea,
Or the low soft music, perchance, which seems
To float through the slumbering singer's dreams,

So sweet, so dear is the silvery tone,
Of her in whose features I sometimes look,

As I sit at eve by her side alone,
And we read by turns from the self-same book,—

Some tale perhaps of the olden time,
Some lover's romance or quaint old rhyme.

Then when the story is one of woe,—
Some prisoner's plaint through his dungeon-bar,

Her blue eye glistens with tears, and low
Her voice sinks down like a moan afar;

And I seem to hear that prisoner's wail,
And his face looks on me worn and pale.

And when she reads some *annerier* song,
Her voice is glad as an April bird's,

And when the tale is of war and wrong,
A trumpet's summons is in her words,
And the rush of the hosts I seem to hear,
And see the tossing of plume and spear!—

O, pity me then, when, day by day,
The stout fiend darkens my parlor door;

And reads me perchance the selfsame lay
Which melted in music, the night before,

From lips as the lips of Hylas sweet,
And moved like twin roses which zephyrs meet!

I cross my floor with a nervous tread,
I whistle and laugh and sing and shout,

I flourish my cane above his head,
And stir up the fire to roast him out;
I topple the chairs, and drum on the pane,
And press my hands on my ears, in vain!

I've studied Glanville and James the wise,
And wizard black-letter tomes which treat

Of demons of every name and size,
Which a Christian man is presumed to meet,

But never a hint and never a line
Can I find of a reading fiend like mine.

I've crossed the Psalter with Brady and
Tate,

And laid the Primer above them all,
I've nailed a horseshoe over the grate,
And hung a wig to my parlor wall
Once worn by a learned Judge, they say,
At Salem court in the witchcraft day !

*"Conjurō te, sceleratissime,
Abire ad tuum locum!"* — still
Like a visible nightmare he sits by me, —
The exorcism has lost its skill ;
And I hear again in my haunted room
The husky wheeze and the dolorous
hum !

Ah ! — commend me to Mary Magdalen
With her sevenfold plagues, — to the
wandering Jew,
To the terrors which haunted Orestes
when
The furies his midnight curtains drew,
But charm him off, ye who charm him
can,
That reading demon, that fat old
man !

THE PUMPKIN.

O, GREENLY and fair in the lands of
the sun,
The vines of the gourd and the rich
melon run,
And the rock and the tree and the cot-
tage enfold,
With broad leaves all greenness and
blossoms all gold,
Like that which o'er Nineveh's prophet
once grew,
While he waited to know that his warn-
ing was true,
And longed for the storm-cloud, and
listened in vain
For the rush of the whirlwind and red
fire-rain.

On the banks of the Xenil the dark
Spanish maiden
Comes up with the fruit of the tangled
vine laden;

And the Creole of Cuba laughs out to
behold
Through orange-leaves shining the
broad spheres of gold ;
Yet with dearer delight from his home
in the North,
On the fields of his harvest the Yankee
looks forth,
Where crook-necks are coiling and yel-
low fruit shines,
And the sun of September melts down
on his vines.

Ah ! on Thanksgiving day, when from
East and from West,
From North and from South come the
pilgrim and guest,
When the gray-haired New-Englander
sees round his board
The old broken links of affection re-
stored,
When the care-wearied man seeks his
mother once more,
And the worn matron smiles where the
girl smiled before,
What moistens the lip and what bright-
ens the eye ?
What calls back the past, like the rich
Pumpkin pie ?

O, — fruit loved of boyhood ! — the old
days recalling,
When wood-grapes were purpling and
brown nuts were falling !
When wild, ugly faces we carved in its
skin,
Glaring out through the dark with a
candle within !
When we laughed round the corn-heap,
with hearts all in tune,
Our chair a broad pumpkin, — our lau-
tern the moon,
Telling tales of the fairy who travelled
like steam,
In a pumpkin-shell coach, with two rats
for her team !

Then thanks for thy present ! — none
sweeter or better
E'er smoked from an oven or circled a
platter !
Fairer hands never wrought at a pastry
more fine,
Brighter eyes never watched o'er its
baking, than thine !

And the prayer, which my mouth is too full to express,
 Swells my heart that thy shadow may never be less,
 That the days of thy lot may be lengthened below,
 And the fame of thy worth like a pumpkin-vine grow,
 And thy life be as sweet, and its last sunset sky
 Golden-tinted and fair as thy own Pumpkin pie!

EXTRACT FROM "A NEW ENGLAND LEGEND."

How has New England's romance fled,
 Even as a vision of the morning!
 Its rites foredone, — its guardians dead, —
 Its priestesses, bereft of dread,
 Waking the veriest urchin's scorning!
 Gone like the Indian wizard's yell
 And fire-dance round the magic rock,
 Forgotten like the Druid's spell
 At moonrise by his holy oak!
 No more along the shadowy glen,
 Glide the dim ghosts of murdered men;
 No more the unquiet churchyard dead
 Glimpse upward from their turf'y bed,
 Startling the traveller, late and lone;
 As, on some night of starless weather,
 They silently commune together,
 Each sitting on his own head-stone!
 The roofless house, decayed, deserted,
 Its living tenants all departed,
 No longer rings with midnight revel
 Of witch, or ghost, or goblin evil;
 No pale blue flame sends out its flashes
 Through creviced roof and shattered sashes! —
 The witch-grass round the hazel spring
 May sharply to the night-air sing,
 But there no more shall withered hags Refresh at ease their broomstick nags,
 Or taste those hazel-shadowed waters
 As beverage meet for Satan's daughters;
 No more their mimic tones be heard, —
 The mew of cat, — the chirp of bird, —
 Shril blending with the hoarser laughter
 Of the fell demon following after!

The cautious goodman nails no more A horseshoe on his outer door,
 Lest some unseemly hag should fit To his own mouth her bridle-bit, —
 The goodwife's churn no more refuses Its wonted culinary uses Until, with heated needle burned,
 The witch has to her place returned! Our witches are no longer old
 And wrinkled beldames, Satan-sold, But young and gay and laughing creatures,
 With the heart's sunshine on their features, —

Their sorcery — the light which dances Where the raised lid unveils its glances; Or that low-breathed and gentle tone,

The music of Love's twilight hours, Soft, dreamlike, as a fairy's moan
 Above her nightly closing flowers, Sweeter than that which sighed of yore, Along the charmed Ausonian shore! Even she, our own weird heroine, Sole Pythonesse of ancient Lynn, Sleeps calmly where the living laid her; And the wide realm of sorcery, Left by its latest mistress free,

Hath found no gray and skilled invader : So perished Albion's "glammarye," With him in Melrose Abbey sleeping, His charmed torch beside his knee, That even the dead himself might see The magic scroll within his keeping. And now our modern Yankee sees Nor omens, spells, nor mysteries : And naught above, below, around, Of life or death, of sight or sound. Whate'er its nature, form, or look, Excites his terror or surprise, — All seeming to his knowing eyes Familiar as his "catechize," Or "Webster's Spelling-Book."

HAMPTON BEACH.

THE sunlight glitters keen and bright, Where, miles away, Lies stretching to my dazzled sight A luminous belt, a misty light, Beyond the dark pine bluffs and wastes of sandy gray.

The tr' nulow shadow of the Sea !
Against its ground
Of silvery light, rock, hill, and tree,
Still as a picture, clear and free,
With varying outline mark the coast
for miles around.

On — on — we tread with loose-flung
rein
Our seaward way,
Through dark-green fields and blos-
soming grain,
Where the wild brier-rose skirts the
lane,
And bends above our heads the flower-
ing locust spray.

Ha ! like a kind hand on my brow
Comes this fresh breeze,
Cooling its dull and feverish glow,
While through my being seems to flow
The breath of a new life, — the healing
of the seas !

Now rest we, where this grassy mound
His feet hath set
In the great waters, which have bound
His granite ankles greenly round
With long and tangled moss, and weeds
with cool spray wet.

Good by to pain and care ! I take
Mine ease to-day :
Here where these sunny waters break,
And ripples this keen breeze, I shake
All burdens from the heart, all weary
thoughts away.

I draw a freer breath — I seem
Like all I see —
Waves in the sun — the white-winged
gleam
Of sea-birds in the slanting beam —
And far-off sail3 which flit before the
south-wind free.

So when Time's veil shall fall asunder,
The soul may know
No fearful change, nor sudden wonder,
Nor sink the weight of mystery under,
But with the upward rise, and with the
vastness grow.

And all we shrink from now may seem
No new revealing :
Familiar as our childhood's stream,
Or pleasant memory of a dream
The loved and cherished Past upon the
new life stealing.

Serene and mild the untried light
May have its dawning :
And, as in summer's northern night
The evening and the dawn unite,
The sunset hues of Time blend with
the soul's new morning.

I sit alone ; in foam and spray
Wave after wave
Breaks on the rocks which, stern and
gray,
Shoulder the broken tide away,
Or murmurs hoarse and strong through
mossy cleft and cave.

What heed I of the dusty land
And noisy town ?
I see the mighty deep expand
From its white line of glimmering sand
To where the blue of heaven on bluer
waves shuts down !

In listless quietude of mind,
I yield to all
The change of cloud and wave and
wind,
And passive on the flood reclined,
I wander with the waves, and with them
rise and fall.

But look, thou dreamer ! — wave and
shore
In shadow lie ;
The night-wind warns me back once
more
To where, my native hill-tops o'er,
Bends like an arch of fire the glowing
sunset sky.

So then, beach, bluff, and wave, fare-
well !
I bear with me
No token stone nor glittering shell,
But long and oft shall Memory tell
Of this brief thoughtful hour of musing
by the Sea.

LINES,

WRITTEN ON HEARING OF THE DEATH
OF SILAS WRIGHT OF NEW YORK.

As they who, tossing midst the storm
at night,
While turning shoreward, where a
beacon shone,
Meet the walled blackness of the
heaven alone,
So, on the turbulent waves of party
tossed,
In gloom and tempest, men have seen
thy light
Quenched in the darkness. At thy
hour of noon,
While life was pleasant to thy un-
dimmed sight,
And, day by day, within thy spirit
grew
A holier hope than young Ambition
knew,
As through thy rural quiet, not in
vain,
Pierced the sharp thrill of Freedom's
cry of pain,
Man of the millions, thou art lost
too soon!
Portents at which the bravest stand
aghast,—
The birth-throes of a Future, strange
and vast,
Alarm the land; yet thou, so wise
and strong,
Suddenly summoned to the burial bed,
Lapped in its slumbers deep and ever
long,
Hear'st not the tumult surging over-
head.
Who now shall rally Freedom's scat-
tering host?
Who wear the mantle of the leader
lost?
Who stay the march of slavery? He
whose voice
Hath called thee from thy task-field
shall not lack
Yet bolder champions, to beat brave-
ly back
The wrong which, through his poor
ones, reaches Him:
Yet firmer hands shall Freedom's torch-
lights trim,

And wave them high across the
abyssal black,
Till bound, dumb millions there shall
see them and rejoice.

10th mo., 1847.

LINES,

ACCOMPANYING MANUSCRIPTS PRE-
SENTED TO A FRIEND.

'T is said that in the Holy Land
The angels of the place have blessed
The pilgrim's bed of desert sand,
Like Jacob's stone of rest.

That down the hush of Syrian skies
Some sweet-voiced saint at twilight
sings

The song whose holy symphonies
Are beat by unseen wings;

Till starting from his sandy bed,
The wayworn wanderer looks to see
The halo of an angel's head
Shine through the tamarisk-tree.

So through the shadows of my way
Thy smile hath fallen soft and clear,
So at the weary close of day
Hath seemed thy voice of cheer.

That pilgrim pressing to his goal
May pause not for the vision's sake,
Yet all fair things within his soul
The thought of it shall wake:

The graceful palm-tree by the well,
Seen on the far horizon's rim;
The dark eyes of the fleet gazelle,
Bent timidly on him;

Each pictured saint, whose golden hair
Streams sunlike through the con-
vent's gloom;
Pale shrines of martyrs young and fair,
And loving Mary's tomb;

And thus each tint or shade which falls
From sunset cloud or waving tree,
Along my pilgrim path, recalls
The pleasant thought of thee.

Of one in sun and shade the same,
In weal and woe my steady friend,
Whatever by that holy name
The angels comprehend.

Not blind to faults and follies, thou
Hast never failed the good to see,
Nor judged by one unseemly bough
The upward-struggling tree.

These light leaves at thy feet I lay,—
Poor common thoughts on common
things,
Which time is shaking, day by day,
Like feathers from his wings,—

Chance shootings from a frail life-tree,
To nurturing care but little known,
Their good was partly learned of thee
Their folly is my own.

That tree still clasps the kindly mould,
Its leaves still drink the twilight dew,
And weaving its pale green with gold,
Still shines the sunlight through.

There still the morning zephyrs play,
And there at times the spring bird
sings,
And mossy trunk and fading spray
Are flowered with glossy wings.

Yet, even in genial sun and rain,
Root, branch, and leaflet fail and fade;
The wanderer on its lonely plain
Erelong shall miss its shade.

O friend beloved, whose curious skill
Keeps bright the last year's leaves
and flowers,
With warm, glad summer thoughts to
fill
The cold, dark, winter hours!

Pressed on thy heart, the leaves I bring
May well defy the wintry cold,
Until, in Heaven's eternal spring,
Life's fairer ones unfold.

THE REWARD.

WHO, looking backward from his man-
hood's prime,
Sees not the spectre of his misspent time?

And, through the shade
Of funeral cypress planted thick behind,
Hears no reproachful whisper on the
wind
From his loved dead?

Who bears no trace of passion's evil
force?
Who shuns thy sting, O terrible Re-
morse? —

Who does not cast
On the thronged pages of his memory's
book,
At times, a sad and half-reluctant look,
Regretful of the Past?

Alas! — the evil which we fain would
shun
We do, and leave the wished-for good
undone:

Our strength to-day
Is but to-morrow's weakness, prone to
fall;
Poor, blind, unprofitable servants all
Are we alway.

Yet who, thus looking backward o'er
his years,
Feels not his eyelids wet with grateful
tears,
If he hath been
Permitted, weak and sinful as he was,
To cheer and aid, in some ennobling
cause,
His fellow-men?

If he hath hidden the outcast, or let in
A ray of sunshine to the cell of sin, —
If he hath lent
Strength to the weak, and, in an hour of
need,
Over the suffering, mindless of his creed
Or home, hath bent.

He has not lived in vain, and while he
gives
The praise to Him, in whom he moves
and lives,
With thankful heart;
He gazes backward, and with hope
before,
Knowing that from his works he never
more
Can henceforth part.

RAPHAEL.

I SHALL not soon forget that sight :
The glow of autumn's westering day,
A hazy warmth, a dreamy light,
On Raphael's picture lay.

It was a simple print I saw,
The fair face of a musing boy :
Yet, while I gazed, a sense of awe
Seemed blending with my joy.

A simple print : — the graceful flow
Of boyhood's soft and wavy hair,
And fresh young lip and cheek, and
brow
Unmarked and clear, were there.

Yet through its sweet and calm repose
I saw the inward spirit shine ;
It was as if before me rose
The white veil of a shrine.

As if, as Gothland's sage has told,
The hidden life, the man within,
Dissevered from its frame and mould,
By mortal eys were seen.

Was it the lifting of that eye,
The waving of that pictured hand ?
Loose as a cloud-wreath on the sky,
I saw the walls expand.

The narrow room had vanished, — space,
Broad, luminous, remained alone,
Through which all hues and shapes of
grace
And beauty looked or shone.

Around the mighty master came
The marvels which his pencil wrought,
Those miracles of power whose fame
Is wide as human thought.

There drooped thy more than mortal
face,
O Mother, beautiful and mild !
Enfolding in one dear embrace
Thy Saviour and thy Child !

The rapt brow of the Desert John ;
The awful glory of that day
When all the Father's brightness shone
Through manhood's veil of clay.

And, midst gray prophet forms, and wild
Dark visions of the days of old,
How sweetly woman's beauty smiled
Through locks of brown and gold !

There Fornarina's fair young face
Once more upon her lover shone,
Whose model of an angel's grace
He borrowed from her own.

Slow passed that vision from my view,
But not the lesson which it taught ;
The soft, calm shadows which it threw
Still rested on my thought :

The truth, that painter, bard, and sage,
Even in Earth's cold and changeful
clime,
Plant for their deathless heritage
The fruits and flowers of time.

We shape ourselves the joy or fear
Of which the coming life is made,
And fill our Future's atmosphere
With sunshine or with shade.

The tissue of the Life to be
We weave with colors all our own,
And in the field of Destiny
We reap as we have sown.

Still shall the soul around it call
The shadows which it gathered here,
And, painted on the eternal wall,
The Past shall reappear.

Think ye the notes of holy song
On Milton's tuneful ear have died ?
Think ye that Raphael's angel throng
Has vanished from his side ?

O no ! — We live our life again :
Or warmly touched, or coldly dim,
The pictures of the Past remain, —
Man's works shall follow him !

LUCY HOOPER.⁴³

THEY tell me, Lucy, thou art dead, —
That all of thee we loved and cher-
ished
Has with thy summer roses per-
ished :

And left, as its young beauty fled,
An ashes' memory in its stead,—
The twilight of a parted day
Whose fading light is cold and vain;
The heart's faint echo of a strain
Of low, sweet music passed away.
That true and loving heart,—that gift
Of a mind, earnest, clear, profound,
Bestowing, with a glad unthrift,
Its sunny light on all around,
Affinities which only could
Cleave to the pure, the true, and good;
And sympathies which found no rest,
Save with the loveliest and best.
Of them — of thee — remains there
naught
But sorrow in the mourner's breast?—
A shadow in the land of thought?
No! — Even my weak and trembling
faith
Can lift for thee the veil which doubt
And human fear have drawn about
the all-awaiting scene of death.

Even as thou wast I see thee still;
And, save the absence of all ill
And pain and weariness, which here
Summoned the sigh or wrung the tear,
The same as when, two summers back,
Beside our childhood's Merrimack,
I saw thy dark eye wander o'er
Stream, sunny upland, rocky shore,
And heard thy low, soft voice alone
Midst lapse of waters, and the tone
Of pine-leaves by the west-wind blown,
There's not a charm of soul or brow, —
Of all we knew and loved in thee, —
But lives in holier beauty now,
Baptized in immortality!
Not mine the sad and freezing dream
Of souls that, with their earthly mould,
Cast off the loves and joys of old, —
Unbodied, — like a pale moonbeam,
As pure, as passionless, and cold;
Nor mine the hope of Indra's son,
Of slumbering in oblivion's rest,
Life's myriads blending into one, —
In blank annihilation blest;
Dust-atoms of the infinite, —
Sparks scattered from the central light,
And winning back through mortal pain
Their old unconsciousness again.
Ho! — I have friends in Spirit Land, —
Not shadows in a shadowy band,

Not others, but themselves are they.
And still I think of them the same
As when the Master's summons came;
Their change, — the holy morn-light
breaking
Upon the dream-worn sleeper, waking, —
A change from twilight into day.

They've laid thee midst the household
graves,
Where father, brother, sister lie;
Below thee sweep the dark blue waves,
Above thee bends the summer sky.
Thy own loved church in sadness read
Her solemn ritual o'er thy head,
And blessed and hallowed with her
prayer
The turf laid lightly o'er thee there.
That church, whose rites and liturgy,
Sublime and old, were truth to thee,
Undoubted to thy bosom taken,
As symbols of a faith unshaken.
Even I, of simpler views, could feel
The beauty of thy trust and zeal;
And, owning not thy creed, could see
How deep a truth it seemed to thee,
And how thy fervent heart had thrown
O'er all, a coloring of its own,
And kindled up, intense and warm,
A life in every rite and form,
As, when on Chebar's banks of old,
The Hebrew's gorgeous vision rolled,
A spirit filled the vast machine, —
A life "within the wheels" was seen.

Farewell! A little time, and we
Who knew thee well, and loved thee
here,
One after one shall follow thee
As pilgrims through the gate of fear,
Which opens on eternity.
Yet shall we cherish not the less
All that is left our hearts meanwhile;
The memory of thy loveliness
Shall round our weary pathway smile,
Like moonlight when the sun has set, —
A sweet and tender radiance yet.
Thoughts of thy clear-eyed sense of
duty,
Thy generous scorn of all things
wrong, —
The truth, the strength, the graceful
beauty
Which blended in thy song.

All lovely things, by thee beloved,
Shall whisper to our hearts of thee ;
These green hills, where thy childhood roved, —

Yon river winding to the sea, —
The sunset light of autumn eves
Reflecting on the deep, still floods,
Cloud, crimson sky, and trembling leaves

Of rainbow-tinted woods, —
These, in our view, shall henceforth take
A tenderer meaning for thy sake ;
And all thou lovedst of earth and sky,
Seem sacred to thy memory.

CHANNING.⁴⁴

Not vainly did old poets tell,
Nor vainly did old genius paint
God's great and crowning miracle, —
The hero and the saint !

For even in a faithless day
Can we our sainted ones discern :
And feel, while with them on the way,
Our hearts within us burn.

And thus the common tongue and pen
Which, world-wide, echo CHANNING's fame,
As one of Heaven's anointed men,
Have sanctified his name.

In vain shall Rome her portals bar,
And shut from him her saintly prize,
Whom, in the world's great calendar,
All men shall canonize.

By Narragansett's sunny bay,
Beneath his green embowering wood,
To me it seems but yesterday
Since at his side I stood.

The slopes lay green with summer rains,
The western wind blew fresh and free,
And glimmered down the orchard lanes
The white surf of the sea.

With us was one, who, calm and true,
Life's highest purpose understood,
And, like his blessed Master, knew
The joy of doing good.

Unlearned, unknown to lettered fame,
Yet on the lips of England's poor
And toiling millions dwelt his name,
With blessings evermore.

Unknown to power or place, yet where
The sun looks o'er the Carib sea,
It blended with the freeman's prayer
And song of jubilee.

He told of England's sin and wrong, —
The ills her suffering children know, —
The squalor of the city's throng, —
The green field's want and woe.

O'er Channing's face the tenderness
Of sympathetic sorrow stole,
Like a still shadow, passionless, —
The sorrow of the soul.

But when the generous Briton told
How hearts were answering to his own,
And Freedom's rising murmur rolled
Up to the dull-eared throne,

I saw, methought, a glad surprise
Thrill through that frail and pain-worn frame,
And, kindling in those deep, calm eyes,
A still and earnest flame.

His few, brief words were such as move
The human heart, — the Faith-sown seeds
Which ripen in the soil of love
To high heroic deeds.

No bars of sect or clime were felt, —
The Babel strife of tongues had ceased, —
And at one common altar knelt
The Quaker and the priest.

And not in vain : with strength renewed,
And zeal refreshed, and hope less dim
For that brief meeting, each pursued
The path allotted him.

How echoes yet each Western hill
And vale with Channing's dying word !

How are the hearts of freemen still
By that great warning stirred !

The stranger treads his native soil,
And pleads, with zeal unselt before
The honest right of British toil,
The claim of England's poor.

Before him time-wrought barriers fall,
Old fears subside, old hatreds melt,
And, stretching o'er the sea's blue wall,
The Saxon greets the Celt.

The yeoman on the Scottish lines,
The Sheffield grinder, worn and grim,
The deliver in the Cornwall mines,
Look up with hope to him.

Swart smiters of the glowing steel,
Dark feeders of the forge's flame,
Pale watchers at the loom and wheel,
Repeat his honored name.

And thus the influence of that hour
Of converse on Rhode Island's strand,
Lives in the calm, resistless power
Which moves our father-land.

God blesses still the generous thought,
And still the fitting word He speeds,
And Truth, at his requiring taught,
He quickens into deeds.

Where is the victory of the grave?
What dust upon the spirit lies?
God keeps the sacred life he gave,—
The prophet never dies!

TO THE MEMORY OF

CHARLES B. STORRS,

LATE PRESIDENT OF WESTERN RE
SERVE COLLEGE.

Thou hast fallen in thine armor,
Thou martyr of the Lord!
With thy last breath crying.—“Ow-
ward!”
And thy hand upon the sword.
The haughty heart derideth,
And the sinful lip reviles,
But the blessing of the perishing
Around thy pillow smiles!

When to our cup of trembling,
The added drop is given,
And the long-suspended thunder
Falls terribly from Heaven,—
When a new and fearful freedom
Is proffered of the Lord
To the slow-consuming Famine,—
The Pestilence and Sword!—

When the refuges of Falsehood
Shall be swept away in wrath,
And the temple shall be shaken,
With its idol, to the earth,—
Shall not thy words of warning
Be all remembered then?
And thy now unheeded message
Burn in the hearts of men?

Oppression's hand may scatter
Its nettles on thy tomb,
And even Christian bosoms
Deny thy memory room;
For lying lips shall torture
Thy mercy into crime,
And the slanderer shall flourish
As the bay-tree for a time.

But where the south-wind lingers
On Carolina's pines,
Or falls the careless sunbeam
Down Georgia's golden mines,—
Where now beneath his burthen
The toiling slave is driven,—
Where now a tyrant's mockery
Is offered unto Heaven,—

Where Mammon hath its altars
Wet o'er with human blood,
And pride and lust debases
The workmanship of God,—
There shall thy praise be spoken,
Redeemed from Falsehood's ban,
When the fetters shall be broken,
And the *slave* shall be a *man*!

Joy to thy spirit, brother!
A thousand hearts are warm,—
A thousand kindred bosoms
Are baring to the storm.
What though red-handed Violence
With secret Fraud combine?
The wall of fire is round us,—
Our Present Help was thine.

Lo,—the waking up of nations,
From Slavery's fatal sleep,—
The murmur of a Universe,—
Deep calling unto Deep!
Joy to thy spirit, brother!—
On every wind of heaven
The onward cheer and summons
Of FREEDOM'S VOICE is given!

Glory to God forever!
Beyond the despot's will
The soul of Freedom liveth
Imperishable still.
The words which thou hast uttered
Are of that soul a part,
And the good seed thou hast scattered
Is springing from the heart.

In the evil days before us,
And the trials yet to come,—
In the shadow of the prison,
Or the cruel martyrdom,—
We will think of thee, O brother!
And thy sainted name shall be
In the blessing of the captive,
And the anthem of the free.

1834.

LINES,

ON THE DEATH OF S. O. TORREY.

Gone before us, O our brother,
To the spirit-land!
Vainly look we for another
In thy place to stand.
Who shall offer youth and beauty
On the wasting shrine
Of a stern and lofty duty,
With a faith like thine?

O, thy gentle smile of greeting
Who again shall see?
Who amidst the solemn meeting
Gaze again on thee?—
Who, when peril gathers o'er us,
Wear so calm a brow?
Who, with evil men before us,
So serene as thou?

Early hath the spoiler found the⁺
Brother of our love!

Autumn's faded earth around thee,
And its storms above!
Evermore that turf lie lightly,
And, with future showers,
O'er thy slumbers fresh and brightly
Blow the summer flowers!

In the locks thy forehead gracing,
Not a silvery streak;
Nor a line of sorrow's tracing
On thy fair young cheek;
Eyes of light and lips of roses,
Such as Hylas wore,—
Over all that curtain closes,
Which shall rise no more!

Will the vigil Love is keeping
Round that grave of thine,
Mournfully, like Jazer weeping
Over Sibmah's vine,⁴⁵—
Will the pleasant memories, swelling
Gentle hearts, of thee,
In the spirit's distant dwelling
All unheeded be?

If the spirit ever gazes,
From its journeyings, back;
If the immortal ever traces
O'er its mortal track;
Wilt thou not, O brother, meet us
Sometimes on our way,
And, in hours of sadness, greet us
As a spirit may?

Peace be with thee, O our brother,
In the spirit-land!
Vainly look we for another
In thy place to stand.
Unto Truth and Freedom giving
All thy early powers,
Be thy virtues with the living,
And thy spirit ours!

A LAMENT.

"The parted spirit,
Knoweth it not our sorrow?" Answereth
not
Its blessing to our tears?"

THE circle is broken,—one seat is
forsaken,—
One bud from the tree of our friendship
is shaken,—

One heart from among us no longer
shall thrill
With joy in our gladness, or grief in
our ill.

Weep!—lonely and lowly are slum-
bering now.
The light of her glances, the pride of
her brow,
Weep!—sadly and long shall we listen
in vain
To hear the soft tones of her welcome
again.

Give our tears to the dead! For hu-
manity's claim
From its silence and darkness is ever
the same;
The hope of that World whose exist-
ence is bliss
May not stifle the tears of the mourners
of this.

For, oh! if one glance the freed spirit
can throw
On the scene of its troubled probation
below,
Than the pride of the marble, the
pomp of the dead,
To that glance will be dearer the tears
which we shed.

O, who can forget the mild light of her
smile,
Over lips moved with music and feeling
the while—
The eye's deep enchantment, dark,
dream-like, and clear,
In the glow of its gladness, the shade
of its tear.

And the charm of her features, while
over the whole
Played the hues of the heart and the
sunshine of soul,—
And the tones of her voice, like the
music which seems
Murmured low in our ears by the
Angel of dreams!

But holier and dearer our memories
hold
Those treasures of feeling, more pre-
cious than gold,—

The love and the kindness and pity
which gave
Fresh flowers for the bridal, green
wreaths for the grave!

The heart ever open to Charity's claim,
Unmoved from its purpose by censure
and blame,
While vainly alike on her eye and her
ear
Fell the scorn of the heartless, the
jesting and jeer.

How true to our hearts was that beau-
tiful sleeper!
With smiles for the joyful, with tears
for the weeper!—
Yet, evermore prompt, whether mourn-
ful or gay,
With warnings in love to the passing
astray.

For, though spotless herself, she could
sorrow for them
Who sullied with evil the spirit's pure
gem;
And a sigh or a tear could the erring
reprove,
And the sting of reproof was still tem-
pered by love.

As a cloud of the sunset, slow melting
in heaven,
As a star that is lost when the daylight
is given,
As a glad dream of slumber, which
wakens in bliss,
She hath passed to the world of the
holy from this.

DANIEL WHEELER.

[DANIEL WHEELER, a minister of the Society of Friends, and who had labored in the cause of his Divine Master in Great Britain, Russia, and the Islands of the Pacific, died in New York in the spring of 1840, while on a religious visit to this country.]

O DEARLY loved!
And worthy of our love!—No more
Thy aged form shall rise before
The hushed and waiting worshipper,

In meek obedience utterance giving
To words of truth, so fresh and living,
That, even to the inward sense,
They bore unquestioned evidence
Of an anointed Messenger !
Or, bowing down thy silver hair
In reverent awfulness of prayer, —
The world, its time and sense, shut
out, —

The brightness of Faith's holy trance
Gathered upon thy countenance,
As if each lingering cloud of doubt, —
The cold, dark shadows resting here
In Time's unluminous atmosphere, —
Were lifted by an angel's hand,
And through them on thy spiritual eye
Shone down the blessedness on high,
The glory of the Better Land !

The oak has fallen !
While, meet for no good work, the vine
May yet its worthless branches twine.
Who knoweth not that with thee fell
A great man in our Israel ?
Fallen, while thy loins were girded still,
Thy feet with Zion's dews still wet,
And in thy hand retaining yet
The pilgrim's staff and scallop-shell !
Unharmed and safe, where, wild and
free,

Across the Neva's cold morass
The breezes from the Frozen Sea
With winter's arrowy keenness pass ;
Or where the unwarning tropic gale
Smote to the waves thy tattered sail,
Or where the noon-hour's fervid heat
Against Tahiti's mountains beat ;

The same mysterious Hand which
gave

Deliverance upon land and wave,
Tempered for thee the blasts which
blew

Ladaga's frozen surface o'er,
And blessed for thee the baleful dew
Of evening upon Eimeo's shore,
Beneath this sunny heaven of ours,
Midst our soft airs and opening flowers
Hath given thee a grave !

His will be done,
Who seeth not as man, whose way
Is not as ours ! — 'Tis well with thee !
Nor anxious doubt nor dark dismay
Disquieted thy closing day,

But, evermore, thy soul could say,
“ My Father careth still for me ! ”
Called from thy hearth and home, —
from her,
The last bud on thy household tree,
The last dear one to minister
In duty and in love to thee,
From all which nature holdeth dear,
Feeble with years and worn with
pain,
To seek our distant land again,
Bound in the spirit, yet unknowing
The things which should befall thee
here,
Whether for labor or for death,
In childlike trust serenely going
To that last trial of thy faith !

O, far away,
Where never shines our Northern star
On that dark waste which Balboa
saw
From Darien's mountains stretching
far,
So strange, heaven-broad, and lone,
that there,
With forehead to its damp wind bare,
He bent his mailed knee in awe ;
In many an isle whose coral feet
The surges of that ocean beat,
In thy palm shadows, Oahu,
And Honolulu's silver bay,
Amidst Owyhee's hills of blue,
And taro-plains of Tooboonai,
Are gentle hearts, which long shall be
Sad as our own at thought of thee, —
Worn sowers of Truth's holy seed,
Whose souls in weariness and need
Were strengthened and refreshed by
thine.

For blessed by our Father's hand
Was thy deep love and tender care,
Thy ministry and fervent prayer, —
Grateful as Eschol's clustered vine
To Israel in a weary land !

And they who drew
By thousands round thee, in the hour
Of prayerful waiting, hushed and
deep,
That He who bade the islands keep
Silence before him, might renew
Their strength with his unslumbering
power,

They too shall mourn that thou art
gone,

That nevermore thy aged lip
Shall soothe the weak, the erring warn,
Of those who first, rejoicing, heard
Through thee the Gospel's glorious
word, —

Seals of thy true apostleship.
And, if the brightest diadem,
Whose gems of glory purely burn
Around the ransomed ones in bliss,
Be evermore reserved for them
Who here, through toil and sorrow,
turn

Many to righteousness, —
May we not think of thee as wearing
That star-like crown of light, and bearing,
Amidst Heaven's white and blissful
band,
The fadless palm-branch in thy hand :
And joining with a seraph's tongue
In that new song the elders sung,
Ascribing to its blessed Giver
Thanksgiving, love, and praise forever !

Farewell !

And though the ways of Zion mourn
When her strong ones are called away,
Who like thyself have calmly borne
The heat and burden of the day,
Yet He who slumbereth not nor sleepeth

His ancient watch around us keepeth :
Still, sent from his creating hand,
New witnesses for Truth shall stand, —
New instruments to sound abroad
The Gospel of a risen Lord :

To gather to the fold once more
The desolate and gone astray,
The scattered of a cloudy day,
And Zion's broken walls restore :
And, through the travail and the toil
Of true obedience, minister
Beauty for ashes, and the oil
Of joy for mourning, unto her !
So shall her holy bounds increase
With walls of praise and gates of peace :
So shall the Vine, which martyr tears
And blood sustained in other years,
With fresher life be clothed upon ;
And to the world-in beauty show
Like the rose-plant of Jericho,
And glorious as Lebanon !

DANIEL NEALL.

I.

FRIEND of the Slave, and yet the friend
of all ;
Lover of peace, yet ever foremost
when
The need of battling Freedom called
for men
To plant the banner on the outer wall ;
Gentle and kindly, ever at distress
Melted to more than woman's tender-
ness,
Yet firm and steadfast, at his duty's post
Fronting the violence of a maddened
host,
Like some gray rock from which the
waves are tossed !
Knowing his deeds of love, men ques-
tioned not
The faith of one whose walk and word
were right, —
Who tranquilly in Life's great task-
field wrought,
And, side by side with evil, scarcely
caught
A stain upon his pilgrim garb of
white :
Prompt to redress another's wrong, his
own
Leaving to Time and Truth and Peni-
tence alone.

II.

Such was our friend. Formed on the
good old plan,
A true and brave and downright honest
man ! —
He blew no trumpet in the market-place,
Nor in the church with hypocritic face
Supplied with cant the lack of Christian
grace ;
Loathing pretence, he did with cheerful
will
What others talked of while their hands
were still :
And, while "Lord, Lord !" the pious
tyrants cried,
Who, in the poor, their Master crucified,
His daily prayer, far better understood
In acts than words, was simply **DOING**
GOOD.
So calm, so constant was his rectitude,

That, by his loss alone we know its
worth,
And feel how true a man has walked
with us on earth.

6th 6th month, 1846.

TO MY FRIEND ON THE DEATH OF HIS SISTER.⁴⁶

THINE is a grief, the depth of which
another
May never know;
Yet, o'er the waters, O my stricken
brother!
To thee I go.

I lean my heart unto thee, sadly folding
Thy hand in mine;
With even the weakness of my soul
upholding
The strength of thine.

I never knew, like thee, the dear de-
parted;
I stood not by
When, in calm trust, the pure and tran-
quill-hearted
Lay down to die.

And on thy ears my words of weak
condoling
Must vainly fall:
The funeral bell which in thy heart is
tolling,
Sounds over all!

I will not mock thee with the poor
world's common
And heartless phrase,
Nor wrong the memory of a sainted
woman
With idle praise.

With silence only as their benediction,
God's angels come
Where, in the shadow of a great afflic-
tion,
The soul sits dumb!

Yet, would I say what thy own heart
approveth:
Our Father's will,

Calling to Him the dear one whom He
loveth,
Is mercy still.

Not upon thee or thine the solemn angel
Hath evil wrought:
Her funeral anthem is a glad evangel,—
The good die not!

God calls our loved ones, but we lose
not wholly
What He hath given:
They live on earth, in thought and
deed, as truly
As in his heaven.

And she is with thee; in thy path of
trial
She walketh yet;
Still with the baptism of thy self-denial
Her locks are wet.

Up, then, my brother! Lo, the fields
of harvest
Lie white in view!
She lives and loves thee, and the God
thou servest
To both is true.

Thrust in thy sickle! — England's toil-
worn peasants
Thy call abide;
And she thou mourn'st, a pure and holy
presence,
Shall glean beside!

GONE.

ANOTHER hand is beckoning us,
Another call is given;
And glows once more with Angel-steps
The path which reaches Heaven.

Our young and gentle friend, whose smile
Made brighter summer hours,
Amid the frosts of autumn time
Has left us with the flowers.

No paling of the cheek of bloom
Forewarned us of decay:
No shadow from the Silent Land
Fell round our sister's way.

The light of her young life went down,
As sinks behind the hill
The glory of a setting star,—
Clear, suddenly, and still.

As pure and sweet, her fair brow seemed
Eternal as the sky;
And like the brook's low song, her
voice,—
A sound which could not die.

And half we deemed she needed not
The changing of her sphere,
To give to Heaven a Shining One,
Who walked an Angel here.

The blessing of her quiet life
Fell on us like the dew;
And good thoughts, where her footsteps
pressed
Like fairy blossoms grew.

Sweet promptings unto kindest deeds
Were in her very look;
We read her face, as one who reads
A true and holy book:

The measure of a blessed hymn,
To which our hearts could move;
The breathing of an inward psalm;
A canticle of love.

We miss her in the place of prayer,
And by the hearth-fire's light;
We pause beside her door to hear
Once more her sweet "Good-night!"

There seems a shadow on the day,
Her smile no longer cheers;
A dimness on the stars of night,
Like eyes that look through tears.

Alone unto our Father's will
One thought hath reconciled;
That He whose love exceedeth ours
Hath taken home his child.

Fold her, O Father! in thine arms,
And let her henceforth be
A messenger of love between
Our human hearts and thee.

Still let her mild rebuking stand
Between us and the wrong,
And her dear memory serve to make
Our faith in Goodness strong.

And grant that she who, trembling, here
Distrusted all her powers,
May welcome to her holier home
The well-beloved of ours.

THE LAKE-SIDE.

THE shadows round the inland sea
Are deepening into night;
Slow up the slopes of Ossipee
They chase the lessening light,
Tired of the long day's blinding heat,
I rest my languid eye,
Lake of the Hills! where, cool and
sweet,
Thy sunset waters lie!

Along the sky, in wavy lines,
O'er isle and reach and bay,
Green-belted with eternal pines,
The mountains stretch away.
Below, the maple masses sleep
Where shore with water blends,
While midway on the tranquil deep
The evening light descends.

So seemed it when yon hill's red crown,
Of old, the Indian trod,
And, through the sunset air, looked
down
Upon the Smile of God.⁴⁷
To him of light and shade the laws
No forest sceptic taught;
Their living and eternal Cause
His truer instinct sought.

He saw these mountains in the light
Which now across them shines;
This lake, in summer sunset bright,
Walled round with sombering pines.
God near him seemed; from earth and
skies
His loving voice he heard,
As, face to face, in Paradise,
Man stood before the Lord.

Thanks, O our Father ! that, like him,
 Thy tender love I see,
 In radiant hill and woodland dim,
 And tinted sunset sea.
 For not in mockery dost thou fill
 Our earth with light and grace ;
 Thou hid'st no dark and cruel will
 Behind thy smiling face !

THE HILL-TOP.

The burly driver at my side,
 We slowly climbed the hill,
 Whose summit, in the hot noon tide,
 Seemed rising, rising still.
 At last, our short noon-shadows hid
 The top-stone, bare and brown,
 From whence, like Gizeh's pyramid,
 The rough mass slanted down.
 I felt the cool breath of the North ;
 Between me and the sun,
 O'er deep, still lake, and ridgy earth,
 I saw the cloud-shades run.
 Before me, stretched for glistening
 miles,
 Lay mountain-girdled Squam :
 Like green-winged birds, the leafy isles
 Upon its bosom swam.

And, glimmering through the sun-haze
 warm,
 Far as the eye could roam,
 Dark billows of an earthquake storm
 Besmeared with clouds like foam,
 Their vales in misty shadow deep,
 Their rugged peaks in shine,
 I saw the mountain ranges sweep
 The horizon's northern line.

There towered Chocorua's peak ; and
 west,
 Moosehillock's woods were seen,
 With many a nameless slide-scarred
 crest
 And pine-dark gorge between.
 Beyond them, like a sun-rimmed cloud,
 The great Notch mountains shone,
 Watched over by the solemn-browed
 And awful face of stone !

"A good look-off ! " the driver spake :
 "About this time, last year,
 I drove a party to the Lake,
 And stopped, at evening, here.
 'Twas duskyish down below ; but all
 These hills stood in the sun,
 Till, dipped behind yon purple wall,
 He left them, one by one.

"A lady, who, from Thornton hill,
 Had held her place outside,
 And, as a pleasant woman will,
 Had cheered the long, dull ride,
 Besought me, with so sweet a smile,
 That — though I hate delays —
 I could not choose but rest awhile, —
 ('These women have such ways !)

"On yonder mossy ledge she sat,
 Her sketch upon her knees,
 A stray brown lock beneath her hat
 Unrolling in the breeze ;
 Her sweet face, in the sunset light
 Upraised and glorified, —
 I never saw a prettier sight
 In all my mountain ride.

"As good as fair ; it seemed her joy
 To comfort and to give ;
 My poor, sick wife, and cripple boy,
 Will bless her while they live ! "
 The tremor in the driver's tone
 His manhood did not shame :
 "I daresay, sir, you may have known —
 He named a well-known name.

Then sank the pyramidal mounds,
 The blue lake fled away ;
 For mountain-scope a parlor's bounds,
 A lighted hearth for day !
 From lonely years and weary miles
 The shadows fell apart ;
 Kind voices cheered, sweet human
 smiles
 Shone warm into my heart.

We journeyed on ; but earth and sky
 Had power to charm no more ;
 Still dreamed my inward-turning eye
 The dream of memory o'er.
 Ah ! human kindness, human love, —
 To few who seek denied, —
 Too late we learn to prize above
 The whole round world beside !

ON RECEIVING AN EAGLE'S QUILL FROM LAKE SUPERIOR.

ALL day the darkness and the cold
Upon my heart have lain,
Like shadows on the winter sky,
Like frost upon the pane ;

But now my torpid fancy wakes,
And, on thy Eagle's plume,
Rides forth, like Sinbad on his bird,
Or witch upon her broom !

Below me roar the rocking pines,
Before me spreads the lake
Whose long and solemn-sounding waves
Against the sunset break.

I hear the wild Rice-Eater thresh
The grain he has not sown ;
I see, with flashing scythe of fire,
The prairie harvest mown !

I hear the far-off voyager's horn ;
I see the Yankee's trail, —
His foot on every mountain-pass,
On every stream his sail.

By forest, lake, and waterfall,
I see his pedler show ;
The mighty mingling with the mean,
The lofty with the low.

He's whittling by St. Mary's Falls,
Upon his loaded wain ;
He's measuring o'er the Pictured
Rocks,
With eager eyes of gain.

I hear the mattock in the mine,
The axe-stroke in the dell,
The clamor from the Indian lodge,
The Jesuit chapel bell !

I see the swarthy trappers come
From Mississippi's springs ;
And war-chiefs with their painted
brows,
And crests of eagle wings.

Behind the scared squaw's birch canoe,
The steamer smokes and raves ;

And city lots are staked for sale
Above old Indian graves.

I hear the tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be ;
The first low wash of waves, where soon
Shall roll a human sea.

The rudiments of empire here
Are plastic yet and warm ;
The chaos of a mighty world
Is rounding into form !

Each rude and jostling fragment soon
Its fitting place shall find, —
The raw material of a State,
Its muscle and its mind !

And, westering still, the star which
leads
The New World in its train
Has tipped with fire the icy spears
Of many a mountain chain.

The snowy cones of Oregon
Are kindling on its way ;
And California's golden sands
Gleam brighter in its ray !

Then blessings on thy eagle quill,
As, wandering far and wide,
I thank thee for this twilight dream
And Fancy's airy ride !

Yet, welcomer than regal plumes,
Which Western trappers find,
Thy free and pleasant thoughts, chance
sown,
Like feathers on the wind.

Thy symbol be the mountain-bird,
Whose glistening quill I hold ;
Thy home the ample air of hope,
And memory's sunset gold !

In thee, let joy with duty join,
And strength unite with love,
The eagle's pinions folding round
The warm heart of the dove !

So, when in darkness sleeps the vale
Where still the blind bird clings,
The sunshine of the upper sky
Shall glitter on thy wings !

MEMORIES.

A BEAUTIFUL and happy girl,
With step as light as summer air,
Eyes glad with smiles, and brow of
pearl,
Shadowed by many a careless curl
Of unconfin'd and flowing hair ;
A seeming child in everything,
Save thoughtful brow and ripening
charms,
As Nature wears the smile of Spring
When sinking into Summer's arms.

A mind rejoicing in the light
Which melted through its graceful
bower,
Leaf after leaf, dew-moist and bright,
And stainless in its holy white,
Unfolding like a morning flower :
A heart, which, like a fine-toned lute,
With every breath of feeling woke,
And, even when the tongue was mute,
From eye and lip in music spoke.

How thrills once more the lengthening
chain
Of memory, at the thought of thee !
Old hopes which long in dust have lain
Old dreams, come thronging back again,
And boyhood lives again in me ;
I feel its glow upon my cheek,
Its fulness of the heart is mine,
As when I leaned to hear thee speak,
Or raised my doubtful eye to thine.

I hear again thy low replies,
I feel thy arm within my own,
And timidly again uprise
The fringed lids of hazel eyes,
With soft brown tresses overblown.
Ah ! memories of sweet summer eves,
Of moonlit wave and willowy way,
Of stars and flowers, and dewy leaves,
And smiles and tones more dear than
they !

Ere this, thy quiet eye hath smiled
My picture of thy youth to see,
When, half a woman, half a child,
Thy very artlessness beguiled,
And folly's self seemed wise in thee ;
I too can smile, when o'er that hour
The lights of memory backward
stream,

Yet feel the while that manhood's power
Is vainer than my boyhood's dream.

Years have passed on, and left their
trace

Of graver care and deeper thought ;
And unto me the calm, cold face
Of manhood, and to thee the grace
Of woman's pensive beauty brought,
More wide, perchance, for blame than
praise,

The school-boy's humble name has
flown :

Thine, in the green and quiet ways
Of unobtrusive goodness known.

And wider yet in thought and deed
Diverge our pathways, one in youth,
Thine the Genevan's sternest creed,
While answers to my spirit's need
The Derby dalesman's simple truth.
For thee, the priestly rite and prayer,
And holy day, and solemn psalm ;
For me, the silent reverence where
My brethren gather, slow and calm.

Yet hath thy spirit left on me

An impress Time has worn not out,
And something of myself in thee,
A shadow from the past, I see,
Lingered, even yet, thy way about ;
Not wholly can the heart unlearn
That lesson of its better hours,
Not yet has Time's dull footstep worn
To common dust that path of flowers.

Thus, while at times before our eyes
The shadows melt, and fall apart,
And, smiling through them, round us
lies

The warm light of our morning skies, —
The Indian Summer of the heart ! —
In secret sympathies of mind,
In founts of feeling which retain
Their pure, fresh flow, we yet may find
Our early dreams not wholly vain !

THE LEGEND OF ST. MARK.*

THE day is closing dark and cold,
With roaring blast and sleety showers;
And through the dusk the lilacs wear
The bloom of snow, instead of flowers.

I turn me from the gloom without,
To ponder o'er a tale of old,
A legend of the age of Faith,
By dreaming monk or abbess told.

On Tintoretto's canvas lives
That fancy of a loving heart,
In graceful lines and shapes of power,
And hues immortal as his art.

In Provence (so the story runs)
There lived a lord, to whom, as slave,
A peasant-boy of tender years
The chance of trade or conquest gave.

Forth-looking from the castle tower,
Beyond the hills with almonds dark,
The straining eye could scarce discern
The chapel of the good St. Mark.

And there, when bitter word or fare
The service of the youth repaid,
By stealth, before that holy shrine,
For grace to bear his wrong, he prayed.

The steed stamped at the castle gate,
The boar-hunt sounded on the hill ;
Why stayed the Baron from the chase,
With looks so stern, and words so ill?

" Go, bind yon slave ! and let him learn,
By scath of fire and strain of cord,
How ill they speed who give dead saints
The homage due their living lord ! "

They bound him on the fearful rack,
When, through the dungeon's vaulted
dark,
He saw the light of shining robes,
And knew the face of good St. Mark.

Then sank the iron rack apart,
The cords released their cruel clasp,
The pincers, with their teeth of fire,
Fell broken from the torturer's grasp.

And lo ! before the Youth and Saint,
Barred door and wall of stone gave
way ;

And up from bondage and the night
They passed to freedom and the day !

O dreaming monk ! thy tale is true ; —
O painter ! true thy pencil's art ;

In tones of hope and prophecy,
Ye whisper to my listening heart !

Unheard no burdened heart's appeal
Moans up to God's inclining ear ;
Unheeded by his tender eye,
Falls to the earth no sufferer's tear.

For still the Lord alone is God !
The pomp and power of tyrant man
Are scattered at his lightest breath,
Like chaff before the winnower's
fan.

Not always shall the slave uplift
His heavy hands to Heaven in vain.
God's angel, like the good St. Mark,
Comes shining down to break his
chain !

O weary ones ! ye may not see
Your helpers in their downward flight ;
Nor hear the sound of silver wings
Slow beating through the hush of
night !

But not the less gray Dothan shone,
With sunbright watchers bending
low,
That Fear's dim eye beheld alone
The spear-heads of the Syrian foe.

There are, who, like the Seer of old,
Can see the helpers God has sent,
And how life's rugged mountain-side
Is white with many an angel tent !

They hear the heralds whom our Lord
Sends down his pathway to prepare :
And light, from others hidden, shines
On their highplace of faith and prayer.

Let such, for earth's despairing ones,
Hopeless, yet longing to be free,
Breathe once again the Prophet's
prayer :
" Lord, ope their eyes, that they may
see ! " —

THE WELL OF LOCH MAREE. *

CALM on the breast of Loch Maree
A little isle reposes ;

A shadow woven of the oak
And willow o'er it closes.

Within, a Druid's mound is seen,
Set round with stony warders ;
A fountain, gushing through the turf,
Flows o'er its grassy borders.

And whoso bathes therein his brow,
With care or madness burning,
Feels once again his healthful thought
And sense of peace returning.

O restless heart and severed brain,
Unquiet and unstable,
That holy well of Loch Maree
Is more than idle fable !

Life's changes vex, its discords stun,
Its glaring sunshine blindeth,
And blest is he who on his way
That fount of healing findeth !

The shadows of a humbled will
And contrite heart are o'er it :
Go read its legend — “TRUST IN
GOD” —
On Faith's white stones before it.

TO MY SISTER :

WITH A COPY OF “SUPERNATURALISM OF NEW ENGLAND.”

DEAR SISTER! — while the wise and sage

Turn coldly from my playful page,
And count it strange that ripened age
Should stoop to boyhood's folly ;
I know that thou wilt judge aright
Of all which makes the heart more light,
Or lends one star-gleam to the night
Of clouded Melancholy.

Away with weary cares and themes ! —
Swing wide the moonlit gate of dreams !
Leave free once more the land which teems

With wonders and romances !
Where thou, with clear discerning eyes,
Shalt rightly read the truth which lies
Beneath the quaintly masking guise
Of wild and wizard fancies.

Lo ! once again our feet we set
On still green wood-paths, twilight wet
By lonely brooks, whose waters fret

The roots of spectral beeches ;
Again the hearth-fire glimmers o'er
Home's whitewashed wall and painted
floor,
And young eyes widening to the lore
Of faery-folks and witches.

Dear heart ! — the legend is not vain
Which lights that holy hearth again,
And calling back from care and pain,
And death's funereal sadness,
Draws round its old familiar blaze
The clustering groups of happier days
And lends to sober manhood's gaze
A glimpse of childish gladness.

And, knowing how my life hath been
A weary work of tongue and pen,
A long, harsh strife with strong-willed
men,

Thou wilt not chide my turning
To con, at times, an idle rhyme,
To pluck a flower from childhood's
clime,
Or listen, at Life's noonday chime,
For the sweet bells of Morning !

AUTUMN THOUGHTS.

FROM “MARGARET SMITH'S JOURNAL.”

GONE hath the Spring, with all its flowers,
And gone the Summer's pomp and show,
And Autumn, in his leafless bowers,
Is waiting for the Winter's snow.

I said to Earth, so cold and gray,
“An emblem of myself thou art” ;
“Not so,” the Earth did seem to say,
“For Spring shall warm my frigid heart.”

I soothe my wintry sleep with dreams
Of warmer sun and softer rain,
And wait to hear the sound of streams
And songs of merry birds again.

But thou, from whom the Spring hath
gone,
For whom the flowers no longer blow,
Who standest blighted and forlorn,
Like Autumn waiting for the snow :

No hope is thine of sunnier hours,
Thy Winter shall no more depart ;
No Spring revive thy wasted flowers,
Nor Summer warm thy frozen heart.

CALEF IN BOSTON.

1692.

In the solemn days of old,
Two men met in Boston town,
One a tradesman frank and bold,
One a preacher of renown.

Cried the last, in bitter tone, —
“Poisoner of the wells of truth !
Satan’s hireling, thou hast sown
With his tares the heart of youth !”

Spake the simple tradesman then, —
“God be judge ‘twixt thou and I ;
All thou knowest of truth hath been
Unto men like thee a lie.

“Falsehoods which we spurn to-day
Were the truths of long ago ;
Let the dead boughs fall away,
Fresher shall the living grow.

“God is good and God is light,
In this faith I rest secure ;
Evil can but serve the right,
Over all shall love endure.

“Of your spectral puppet play
I have traced the cunning wires ;
Come what will, I needs must say,
God is true, and ye are liars.”

When the thought of man is free,
Error fears its lightest tones ;
So the priest cried, “Saducee !”
And the people took up stones.

In the ancient burying-ground,
Side by side the twain now lie, —

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One with humble grassy mound,
One with marbles pale and high.

But the Lord hath blest the seed
Which that tradesman scattered then,
And the preacher’s spectral creed
Chills no more the blood of men.

Let us trust, to one is known
Perfect love which casts out fear,
While the other’s joys atone
For the wrong he suffered here

TO PIUS IX.⁵⁰

The cannon’s brazen lips are cold ;
No red shell blazes down the air ;
And street and tower, and temple old,
Are silent as despair.

The Lombard stands no more at bay, —
Rome’s fresh young life has bled in
vain ;
The ravens scattered by the day
Come back with night again.

Now, while the fratricides of France
Are treading on the neck of Rome,
Hider at Gaeta, — seize thy chance !
Coward and cruel, come !

Creep now from Naples’ bloody skirt ;
Thy mummer’s part was acted well,
While Rome, with steel and fire begirt,
Before thy crusade fell !

Her death-groans answered to thy
prayer ;
.Thy chant, the drum and bugle-call ;
Thy lights, the burning villa’s glare ;
Thy beads, the shell and ball !

Let Austria clear thy way, with hands
Foul from Ancona’s cruel sack,
And Naples, with his dastard bands
Of murderers, lead thee back !

Rome’s lips are dumb ; the orphan’s wail,
The mother’s shriek, thou mayst not
hear
Above the faithless Frenchman’s hail,
The unsexed shaveling’s cheer !

MISCELLANEOUS.

Go, bind on Rome her cast-off weight,
The double curse of crook and crown,
Though woman's scorn and manhood's
hate
From wall and roof flash down !

Nor heed those blood-stains on the wall,
Not Tiber's flood can wash away,
Where, in thy stately Quirinal,
Thy mangled victims lay !

Let the world murmur ; let its cry
Of horror and disgust be heard ; —
Truth stands alone ; thy coward lie
Is backed by lance and sword !

The cannon of St. Angelo,
And chanting priest and clanging bell,
And beat of drum and bugle blow,
Shall greet thy coming well !

Let lips of iron and tongues of slaves
Fit welcome give thee ; — for her part,
Rome, frowning o'er her new-made
graves,
Shall curse thee from her heart !

No wreaths of sad Campagna's flowers
Shall childhood in thy pathway fling ;
No garlands from their ravaged bowers
Shall Terni's maidens bring ;

But, hateful as that tyrant old,
The mocking witness of his crime,
In thee shall loathing eyes behold
The Nero of our time !

Stand where Rome's blood was freest
shed,
Mock Heaven with impious thanks,
and call
Its curses on the patriot dead,
Its blessings on the Gaul !

Or sit upon thy throne of lies,
A poor, mean idol, blood-besmeared,
Whom even its worshippers despise, —
Unhonored, unrevered !

Yet, Scandal of the World ! from thee
One needful truth mankind shall
learn, —
That kings and priests to Liberty
And God are false in turn.

Earth wearis of them ; and the long
Meek sufferance of the Heavens doth
fail ;

Woe for weak tyrants, when the strong
Wake, struggle, and prevail !

Not vainly Roman hearts have bled
To feed the Crozier and the Crown,
If, roused thereby, the world shall tread
The twin-born vampires down !

ELLIOTT. II

HANDS off ! thou tithe-fat plunderer !
play

No trick of priestcraft here !
Back, puny lordling ! dares thou lay
A hand on Elliott's bier ?
Alive, your rank and pomp, as dust,
Beneath his feet he trod :
He knew the locust swarm that cursed
The harvest-fields of God.

On these pale lips, the smothered
thought
Which England's millions feel,
A fierce and fearful splendor caught,
As from his forge the steel.
Strong-armedas Thor, — a shower of fire
His smitten anvil flung ;
God's curse, Earth's wrong, dumb Hun-
ger's ire, —
He gave them all a tongue !

Then let the poor man's horny hands
Bear up the mighty dead,
And labor's swart and stalwart bands
Behind as mourners tread.
Leave cant and craft their baptized
bounds,
Leave rank its minster floor ;
Give England's green and daisied
grounds
The poet of the poor !

Lay down upon his Sheaf's green verge
That brave old heart of oak,
With fitting dirge from sounding forge,
And pall of furnace smoke !
Where whirls the stone its dizzy rounds,
And axe and sledge are swung,
And, timing to their stormy sounds,
His stormy lays are sung.

There let the peasant's step be heard,
The grinder chant his rhyme ;
Nor patron's praise nor dainty word
Befits the man or time.
No soft lament nor dreamer's sigh
For him whose words were bread,—
The Runic rhyme and spell whereby
The foodless poor were fed !

Pile up thy tombs of rank and pride,
O England, as thou wilt !
With pomp to nameless worth denied,
Emblazon titled guilt !
No part or lot in these we claim ;
But, o'er the sounding wave,
A common right to Elliott's name,
A freehold in his grave !

ICHABOD !

So fallen ! so lost ! the light withdrawn
Which once he wore !
The glory from his gray hairs gone
Forevermore !

Revile him not, — the Tempter hath
A snare for all ;
And pitying tears, not scorn and wrath,
Beset his fall !

O, dumb be passion's stormy rage,
When he who might
Have lighted up and led his age,
Falls back in night.

Scorn I would the angels laugh, to mark
A bright soul driven,
Fiend-goaded, down the endless dark,
From hope and heaven !

Let not the land once proud of him
Insult him now,
Nor brand with deeper shame his dim,
Dishonored brow.

But let its humbled sons, instead,
From sea to lake,
A long lament, as for the dead,
In sadness make.

Of all we loved and honored, naught
Save power remains, —

A fallen angel's pride of thought,
Still strong in chains.

All else is gone : from those great eyes
The soul has fled :
When faith is lost, when honor dies,
The man is dead !

Then, pay the reverence of old days
To his dead fame ;
Walk backward, with averted gaze,
And hide the shame !

THE CHRISTIAN TOURISTS.¹²

No aimless wanderers, by the fiend
Unrest
Goaded from shore to shore ;
No schoolmen, turning, in their classic
quest,
The leaves of empire o'er.
Simple of faith, and bearing in their
hearts
The love of man and God,
Isles of old song, the Moslem's ancient
marts,
And Scythia's steppes, they trod.

Where the long shadows of the fir and
pine
In the night sun are cast,
And the deep heart of many a Norland
mine
Quakes at each riving blast ;
Where, in barbaric grandeur, Moskwa
stands,
A baptized Scythian queen,
With Europe's arts and Asia's jewelled
hands,
The North and East between !

Where still, through vales of Grecian
fable, stray
The classic forms of yore,
And Beauty smiles, new risen from the
spray,
And Dian weeps once more ;
Where every tongue in Smyrna's mart
resounds ;
And Stamboul from the sea
Lifts her tall minarets over burial-
grounds
Black with the cypress-trees !

From Malta's temples to the gates of
Rome,
Following the track of Paul,
And where the Alps gird round the
Switzer's home
Their vast, eternal wall :
They paused not by the ruins of old
time,

They scanned no pictures rare,
Nor lingered where the snow-locked
mountains climb
The cold abyss of air !

But unto prisons, where men lay in
chains,

To haunts where Hunger pined,
To kings and courts forgetful of the
pains

And wants of human-kind,
Scattering sweet words, and quiet deeds
of good,

Along their way, like flowers,
Or pleading, as Christ's freemen only
could,
With princes and with powers ;

Their single aim the purpose to fulfil
Of Truth, from day to day,
Simply obedient to its guiding will,
They held their pilgrim way.
Yet dream not, hence, the beautiful and
old

Were wasted on their sight,
Who in the school of Christ had learned
to hold
All outward things aright.

Not less to them the breath of vine-
yards blown

From off the Cyprian shore,
Not less for them the Alps in sunset
shone,

That man they valued more.
A life of beauty lends to all it sees
The beauty of its thought ;
And fairest forms and sweetest harmo-
nies
Make glad its way, unsought.

In sweet accordancy of praise and love,
The singing waters run ;
And sunset mountains wear in light
above
The smile of duty done ;

Sure stands the promise, — ever to the
meek
A heritage is given ;
Nor lose they Earth who, single-heart-
ed, seek
The righteousness of Heaven !

THE MEN OF OLD.

WELL speed thy mission, bold Icono-
clast !

Yet all unworthy of its trust thou art,
If, with dry eye, and cold, unloving
heart,
Thou tread'st the solemn Pantheon of
the Past,
By the great Future's dazzling hope
made blind
To all the beauty, power, and truth
behind.

Not without reverent awe shouldst
thou put by

The cypress branches and the ama-
ranch blooms,
Where, with clasped hands of prayer,
upon their tombs

The effigies of old confessors lie,
God's witnesses ; the voices of his will,
Heard in the slow march of the cen-
turies still !

Such were the men at whose rebuking
frown,

Dark with God's wrath, the tyrant's
knee went down ;

Such from the terrors of the guilty drew
The vassal's freedom and the poor
man's due.

St. Anselm (may he rest forevermore
In Heaven's sweet peace !) forbade,
of old, the sale

Of men as slaves, and from the
sacred pale

Hurled the Northumbrian buyers of
the poor.

To ransom souls from bonds and evil
fate

St. Ambrose melted down the sacred
plate, —

Image of saint, the chalice, and the
pix,
Crosses of gold, and silver candlesticks.

"MAN IS WORTH MORE THAN TEMPLES!" he replied.
 To such as came his holy work to chide.
 And brave Cesarius, stripping altars bare,
 And coining from the Abbey's golden hoard
 The captive's freedom, answered to the prayer
 Or threat of those whose fierce zeal for the Lord
 Stifled their love of man,—"An earth-en dish
 The last sad supper of the Master bore:
 Most miserable sinners! do ye wish More than your Lord, and grudge his dying poor
 What your own pride and not his need requires?
 Souls, than these shining gauds, He values more;
 Mercy, not sacrifice, his heart desires!"
 O faithful worthies! resting far behind In your dark ages, since ye fell asleep, Much has been done for truth and human-kind,—
 Shadows are scattered wherein ye groped blind;
 Man claims his birthright, freer pulses leap
 Through peoples driven in your day like sheep;
 Yet, like your own, our age's sphere of light,
 Though widening still, is walled around by night;
 With slow, reluctant eye, the Church has read,
 Sceptic at heart, the lessons of its Head;
 Counting, too oft, its living members less
 Than the wall's garnish and the pulpit's dress;
 World-moving zeal, with power to bless and feed
 Life's fainting pilgrims, to their utter need,
 Instead of bread, holds out the stone of creed;
 Sect builds and worships where its wealth and pride
 And vanity stand shrined and deified,

Careless that in the shadow of its walls God's living temple into ruin falls.
 We need, methinks, the prophet-hero still,
 Saints true of life, and martyrs strong of will,
 To tread the land, even now, as Xavier trod
 The streets of Goa, barefoot, with his bell,
 Proclaiming freedom in the name of God,
 And startling tyrants with the fear of hell!
 Soft words, smooth prophecies, are doubtless well;
 But to rebuke the age's popular crime, We need the souls of fire, the hearts of that old time!

THE PEACE CONVENTION AT BRUSSELS.

STILL in thy streets, O Paris! doth the stain
 Of blood defy the cleansing autumn rain;
 Still breaks the smoke Messina's ruins through,
 And Naples mourns that new Bartholomew,
 When squallid beggary, for a dole of bread,
 At a crowned murderer's beck of license, fed
 The yawning trenches with her noble dead;
 Still, doomed Vienna, through thy stately halls
 The shell goes crashing and the red shot falls,
 And, leagued to crush thee, on the Danube's side,
 The bearded Croat and Bosniak spear-man ride;
 Still in that vale where Himalaya's snow Melts round the cornfields and the vines below,
 The Sikh's hot cannon, answering ball for ball,
 Flames in the breach of Moultan's shattered wall;

On Chenab's side the vulture seeks the slain,
And Sutlej paints with blood its banks again.
"What folly, then," the faithless critic cries,
With sneering lip, and wise, world-knowing eyes,
"While fort to fort, and post to post,
repeat
The ceaseless challenge of the war-drum's beat,
And round the green earth, to the church-bell's chime,
The morning drum-roll of the camp keeps time,
To dream of peace amidst a world in arms,
Of swords to ploughshares changed by Scriptural charms,
Of nations, drunken with the wine of blood,
Staggering to take the Pledge of Brotherhood,
Like tipplers answering Father Matthew's call, —
The sullen Spaniard, and the mad-cap Gaul,
The bull-dog Briton, yielding but with life,
The Yankee swaggering with his bowie-knife,
The Russ, from banquets with the vulture shared,
The blood still dripping from his amber beard,
Quitting their mad Berserker dance to hear
The dull, meek droning of a drab-coat seer;
Leaving the sport of Presidents and Kings,
Where men for dice each titled gambler flings,
To meet alternate on the Seine and Thames,
For tea and gossip, like old country dames!
No! let the cravens plead the weeping's cant,
Let Cobden cipher, and let Vincent rant,
Let Sturge preach peace to democratic throngs,
And Burritt, stammering through his hundred tongues,

Repeat, in all, his ghostly lessons o'er,
Timed to the pauses of the battery's roar;
Check Ban or Kaiser with the barricade
Of "Olive-leaves" and Resolutions made,
Spikeguns with pointed Scripture-texts, and hope
To capsize navies with a windy trope:
Still shall the glory and the pomp of War
Along their train the shouting millions draw;
Still dusty Labor to the passing Brave
His cap shall doff, and Beauty's kerchief wave;
Still shall the bard to Valor tune his song,
Still Hero-worship kneel before the Strong;
Rosy and sleek, the sable-gowned divine,
O'er his third bottle of suggestive wine,
To plumed and sworded auditors, shall prove
Their trade accordant with the Law of Love;
And Church for State, and State for Church, shall fight,
And both agree, that Might alone is Right!"
Despite of sneers like these, O faithful few,
Who dare to hold God's word and witness true,
Whose clear-eyed faith transcends our evil time,
And o'er the present wilderness of crime,
Sees the calm future, with its robes of green,
Its fleece-flecked mountains, and soft streams between, —
Still keep the path which duty bids ye tread,
Though worldly wisdom shake the cautious head;
No truth from Heaven descends upon our sphere,
Without the greeting of the sceptic's sneer;
Denied and mocked at, till its blessings fall,
Common as dew and sunshine, over all.

'Then, o'er Earth's war-field, till the strife shall cease,
Like Morven's harpers, sing your song of peace;
As in old fable rang the Thracian's lyre,
Midst howl of fiends and roar of penal fire,
Till the fierce din to pleasing murmurs fell,
And love subdued the maddened heart of hell.
Lend, once again, that holy song a tongue,
Which the glad angels of the Advent sung,
Their cradle-anthem for the Saviour's birth,
Glory to God, and peace unto the earth!
Through the mad discord send that calming word
Which wind and wave on wild Genesareth heard,
Lift in Christ's name his Cross against the Sword!
Not vain the vision which the prophets saw,
Skirting with green the fiery waste of war,
Through the hot sand-gleam, looming soft and calm
On the sky's rim, the fountain-shading palm.
Still lives for Earth, which fiends so long have trod,
The great hope resting on the truth of God,—
Evil shall cease and Violence pass away,
And the tired world breathe free through a long Sabbath day.

21st mo., 1848.

THE WISH OF TO-DAY.

I ASK not now for gold to gild
With mocking shine a weary frame;
The yearning of the mind is stilled,—
I ask not now for Fame.

A rose-cloud, dimly seen above,
Melting in heaven's blue depths away,—

O, sweet, fond dreams of human Love!
For thee I may not pray.

But, bowed in lowliness of mind,
I make my humble wishes known,—
I only ask a will resigned,
O Father, to thine own!

To-day, beneath thy chastening eye
I crave alone for peace and rest,
Submissive in thy hand to lie,
And feel that it is best.

A marvel seems the Universe,
A miracle our Life and Death;
A mystery which I cannot pierce,
Around, above, beneath.

In vain I task my aching brain,
In vain the sage's thought I scan
I only feel how weak and vain,
How poor and blind, is man.

And now my spirit sighs for home,
And longs for light whereby to see,
And, like a weary child, would come,
O Father, unto thee!

Though oft, like letters traced on sand,
My weak resolves have passed away,
In mercy lend thy helping hand
Unto my prayer to-day!

OUR STATE.

THE South-land boasts its teeming cane,
The prairied West its heavy grain,
And sunset's radiant gates unfold
On rising marts and sands of gold!

Rough, bleak, and hard, our little State
Is scant of soil, of limits strait;
Her yellow sands are sands alone,
Her only mines are ice and stone!

From Autumn frost to April rain,
Too long her winter woods complain;
From budding flower to falling leaf,
Her summer time is all too brief.

Yet, on her rocks, and on her sands,
And wintry hills, the school-house
stands,
And what her rugged soil denies,
The harvest of the mind supplies.

The riches of the Commonwealth
Are free, strong minds, and hearts of
health ;
And more to her than gold or grain,
The cunning hand and cultured brain.

For well she keeps her ancient stock,
The stubborn strength of Pilgrim Rock ;
And still maintains, with milder laws,
And clearer light, the Good Old Cause !

Nor heeds the sceptic's puny hands,
While near her school the church-spire
stands ;
Nor fears the blinded bigot's rule,
While near her church-spire stands the
school.

ALL'S WELL.

THE clouds, which rise with thunder,
slake
Our thirsty souls with rain ;
The blow most dreaded falls to break
From off our limbs a chain ;
And wrongs of man to man but make
The love of God more plain.
As through the shadowy lens of even
The eye looks farthest into heaven
On gleams of star and depths of blue
The glaring sunshine never knew !

SEED-TIME AND HARVEST.

As o'er his furrowed fields which lie
Beneath a coldly-dropping sky,
Yet chill with winter's melted snow,
The husbandman goes forth to sow,

Thus, Freedom, on the bitter blast
The ventures of thy seed we cast,
And trust to warmer sun and rain
To swell the germ, and fill the grain.

Who calls thy glorious service hard ?
Who deems it not its own reward ?
Who, for its trials, counts it less
A cause of praise and thankfulness ?

It may not be our lot to wield
The sickle in the ripened field ;
Nor ours to hear, on summer eves,
The reaper's song among the sheaves.

Yet where our duty's task is wrought
In unison with God's great thought,
The near and future blend in one,
And whatsoe'er is willed, is done !

And ours the grateful service whence
Comes, day by day, the recompense ;
The hope, the trust, the purpose stayed,
The fountain and the noonday shade.

And were this life the utmost span,
The only end and aim of man,
Better the toil of fields like these
Than waking dream and slothful ease.

But life, though falling like our grain,
Like that revives and springs again ;
And, early called, how blest are they
Who wait in heaven their harvest-day !

TO A. K.

ON RECEIVING A BASKET OF SEA-MOSSES.

THANKS for thy gift
Of ocean flowers,
Born where the golden drift
Of the slant sunshine falls
Down the green, tremulous walls
Of water, to the cool still coral bow-
ers,
Where, under rainbows of perpetual
showers,
God's gardens of the deep
His patient angels keep :
Gladdening the dim, strange solitude
With fairest forms and hues, and
thus
Forever teaching us
The lesson which the many-colored
skies,

The flowers, and leaves, and painted butterflies,
The deer's branched antlers, the gay bird that flings
The tropic sunshine from its golden wings,
The brightness of the human countenance,
Its play of smiles, the magic of a glance,
Forevermore repeat,
In varied tones and sweet,
That beauty, in and of itself, is good.

O kind and generous friend, o'er whom
The sunset hues of Time are cast,
Painting, upon the overpast
And scattered clouds of noonday sorrow
The promise of a fairer morrow,
An earnest of the better life to come ;
The binding of the spirit broken,
The warning to the erring spoken,
The comfort of the sad,
The eye to see, the hand to cull
Of common things the beautiful,
The absent heart made glad
By simple gift or graceful token
Of love it needs as daily food,
All own one Source, and all are good !
Hence, tracking sunny cove and reach,
Where spent waves glimmer up the beach,
And toss their gifts of weed and shell
From foamy curve and combing swell,
No unbefitting task was thine
To weave these flowers so soft and fair
In unison with His design
Who loveth beauty everywhere ;
And makes in every zone and clime,
In ocean and in upper air,
" All things beautiful in their time."

For not alone in tones of awe and power
He speaks to man ;
The cloudy horror of the thunder-shower
His rainbows span ;
And where the caravan
Winds o'er the desert, leaving, as in air
The crane-flock leaves, no trace of passage there,
He gives the weary eye
The palm-leaf shadow for the hot noon hours,
And on its branches dry
Calls out the acacia's flowers ;
And where the dark shaft pierces down
Beneath the mountain roots,
Seen by the miner's lamp alone,
The star-like crystal shoots ;
So, where, the winds and waves below,
The coral-branched gardens grow,
His climbing weeds and mosses show,
Like foliage, on each stony bough,
Of varied hues more strangely gay
Than forest leaves in autumn's day : —
Thus evermore,
On sky, and wave, and shore,
An all-pervading beauty seems to say :
God's love and power are one ; and they,
Who, like the thunder of a sultry day,
Smite to restore,
And they, who, like the gentle wind,
Uplift
The petals of the dew-wet flowers, and drift
Their perfume on the air,
Alike may serve Him, each, with their own gift,
Making their lives a prayer !



THE CHAPEL OF THE HERMITS,

AND

OTHER POEMS.

1852.



THE CHAPEL OF THE HERMITS.

"I do believe, and yet, in grief,
I pray for help to unbelief;
For needful strength aside to lay
The daily cumberings of my way.

"I'm sick at heart of craft and cant,
Sick of the crazed enthusiast's rant,
Profession's smooth hypocrisies,
And creeds of iron, and lives of ease.

"I ponder o'er the sacred word,
I read the record of our Lord;
And, weak and troubled, envy them
Who touched his seamless garment's hem; —

"Who saw the tears of love he wept
Above the grave where Lazarus slept;
And heard, amidst the shadows dim
Of Olivet, his evening hymn.

"How blessed the swineherd's low estate,
The beggar crouching at the gate,
The leper loathly and abhorred,
Whose eyes of flesh beheld the Lord!

"O sacred soil his sandals pressed!
Sweet fountains of his noonday rest!
O light and air of Palestine,
Impregnate with his life divine!

"O, bear me thither! Let me look
On Siloa's pool, and Kedron's brook, —
Kneel at Gethsemane, and by
Genesaret walk, before I die!

"Methinks this cold and northern night
Would melt before that Orient light;
And, wet by Hermon's dew and rain,
My childhood's faith revive again!"

So spake my friend, one autumn day,
Where the still river slid away
Beneath us, and above the brown
Red curtains of the woods shut down.

Then said I, — for I could not brook
The mute appealing of his look, —
"I, too, am weak, and faith is small,
And blindness happeneth unto all.

"Yet, sometimes glimpses on my sight,
Through present wrong, the eternal
right;
And, step by step, since time began,
I see the steady gain of man;

"That all of good the past hath had
Remains to make our own time glad, —
Our common daily life divine,
And every land a Palestine.

"Thou weariest of thy present state;
What gain to thee time's holiest date?
The doubter now perchance had been
As High Priest or as Pilate then!

"What thought Chorazin's scribes?
What faith
In Him had Nain and Nazareth?
Of the few followers whom He led
One sold him, — all forsook and fled.

"O friend! we need nor rock nor sand,
Nor storied stream of Morning-Land;
The heavens are glassed in Merrimack, —
What more could Jordan render back?

"We lack but open eye and ear
To find the Orient's marvels here; —
The still small voice in autumn's hush,
Yon maple wood the burning bush.

"For still the new transcends the old,
In signs and tokens manifold ; —
Slaves rise up men ; the olive waves,
With roots deep set in battle graves !

"Through the harsh noises of our day
A low, sweet prelude finds its way ;
Through clouds of doubt, and creeds
of fear,
A light is breaking, calm and clear.

"That song of Love, now low and far,
Ere-long shall swell from star to star !
That light, the breaking day, which tips
The golden-spired Apocalypse !"

Then, when my good friend shook his
head,
And, sighing, sadly smiled, I said :
"Thou mind'st me of a story told
In rare Bernardin's leaves of gold." 53

And while the slanted sunbeams wove
The shadows of the frost-stained grove,
And, picturing all, the river ran
O'er cloud and wood, I thus began :

In Mount Valerien's chestnut wood
The Chapel of the Hermits stood ;
And thither, at the close of day,
Came two old pilgrims, worn and gray.

One, whose impetuous youth defied
The storms of Baikal's wintry side,
And mused and dreamed where tropic
day
Flamed o'er his lost Virginia's bay.

His simple tale of love and woe
All hearts had melted, high or low
A blissful pain, a sweet distress,
Immortal in its tenderness.

Yet, while above his charm'd page
Beat quick the young heart of his age,
He walked amidst the crowd unknown,
A sorrowing old man, strange and lone.

A homeless, troubled age. — the gray
Pale setting of a weary day ;
Too dull his ear for voice of praise,
Too sadly worn his brow for bays.

Pride, lust of power and glory, slept ;
Yet still his heart its young dream kept,
And, wandering like the deluge-dove,
Still sought the resting-place of love.

And, mateless, childless, envied more
The peasant's welcome from his door
By smiling eyes at eventide,
Than kingly gifts or lettered pride.

Until, in place of wife and child,
All-pitying Nature on him smiled,
And gave to him the golden keys
To all her inmost sanctities.

Mild Druid of her wood-paths dim !
She laid her great heart bare to him,
Its loves and sweet accords ; — he saw
The beauty of her perfect law.

The language of her signs he knew,
What notes her cloudy clarion blew ;
The rhythm of autumn's forest dyes,
The hymn of sunset's painted skies.

And thus he seemed to hear the song
Which swept, of old, the stars along ;
And to his eyes the earth once more
Its fresh and primal beauty wore.

Who sought with him, from summer air,
And field and wood, a balm for care ;
And bathed in light of sunset skies
His tortured nerves and weary eyes ?

His fame on all the winds had flown ;
His words had shaken crypt and throne ;
Like fire, on camp and court and cell
They dropped, and kindled as they fell.

Beneath the pomps of state, below
The mitred juggler's masque and show,
A prophecy — a vague hope — ran
His burning thought from man to man.

For peace or rest too well he saw
The fraud of priests, the wrong of law
And felt how hard, between the two,
Their breath of pain the millions drew

A prophet-utterance, strong and wild,
The weakness of an unweaned child,
A sun-bright hope for human-kind,
And self-despair, in him combined.

He loathed the false, yet lived not true
To half the glorious truths he knew ;
The doubt, the discord, and the sin,
He mourned without, he felt within.

Untrod by him the path he showed,
Sweet pictures on his easel glowed
Of simple faith, and loves of home,
And virtue's golden days to come.

But weakness, shame, and folly made
The foil to all his pen portrayed ;
Still, where his dreamy splendors shone,
The shadow of himself was thrown.

Lord, what is man, whose thought, at
times,
Up to thy sevenfold brightness climbs,
While still his grosser instinct clings
To earth, like other creeping things !

So rich in words, in acts so mean ;
So high, so low ; chance-swinged between
The foulness of the penal pit
And Truth's clear sky, millennium-lit !

Vain pride of star-lent genius ! — vain
Quick fancy and creative brain,
Unblest by prayerful sacrifice,
Absurdly great, or weakly wise !

Midst yearnings for a truer life,
Without were fears, within was strife ;
And still his wayward act denied
The perfect good for which he sighed.

The love he sent forth void returned ;
The fame that crowned him scorched
and burned,
Burning, yet cold and drear and lone, —
A fire-mount in a frozen zone !

Like that the gray-haired sea-king
passed;⁶⁴
Seen southward from his sleety mast,
About whose brows of changeless frost
A wreath of flame the wild winds tossed.

Far round the mournful beauty played
Of lambent light and purple shade,
Lost on the fixed and dumb despair
Of frozen earth and sea and air !

A man apart, unknown, unloved
By those whose wrongs his soul had
moved,
He bore the ban of Church and State,
The good man's fear, the bigot's hate !

Forth from the city's noise and throng,
Its pomp and shame, its sin and wrong,
The twain that summer day had strayed
To Mount Valerien's chestnut shade.

To them the green fields and the wood
Lent something of their quietude,
And golden-tinted sunset seemed
Prophetic of all they dreamed.

The hermits from their simple cares
The bell was calling home to prayers,
And, listening to its sound, the twain
Seemed lapped in childhood's trust
again.

Wide open stood the chapel door :
A sweet old music, swelling o'er
Low prayerful murmurs, issued thence, —
The Litanies of Providence !

Then Rousseau spake : "Where two or
three
In His name meet, He there will be !"
And then, in silence, on their knees
They sank beneath the chestnut-trees.

As to the blind returning light,
As daybreak to the Arctic night,
Old faith revived : the doubts of years
Dissolved in reverential tears.

That gush of feeling overpast,
"Ah me ! " Bernardin sighed at last,
"I would thy bitterest foes could see
Thy heart as it is seen of me !

"No church of God hast thou denied ;
Thou hast but spurned in scorn aside
A base and hollow counterfeit,
Profaning the pure name of it !

"With dry dead moss and marsh weeds
His fire the western herdsman feeds,
And greener from the ashen plain
The sweet spring grasses rise again.

" Nor thunder-peal nor mighty wind
Disturb the solid sky behind :
And through the cloud the red bolt rends
The calm, still smile of Heaven descends !

" Thus through the world, like bolt and
blast,
And scourging fire, thy words have
passed.
Clouds break, — the steadfast heavens
remain ;
Weeds burn, — the ashes feed the grain !

" But whoso strives with wrong may find
Its touch pollute, its darkness blind ;
And learn, as latent fraud is shown
In others' faith, to doubt his own.

" With dream and falsehood, simple trust
And pious hope we tread in dust ;
Lost the calm faith in goodness, — lost
The baptism of the Pentecost !

" Alas ! — the blows for error meant
Too oft on truth itself are spent,
As through the false and vile and base
Looks forth her sad, rebuking face.

" Not ours the Theban's charm'd life ;
We come not scathless from the strife !
The Python's coil about us clings,
The trampled Hydra bites and stings !

" Meanwhile, the sport of seeming
chance,
The plastic shapes of circumstance,
What might have been we fondly guess,
If earler born, or tempted less.

" And thou, in these wild, troubled
days,
Misjudged alike in blame and praise,
Unsought and undeserved the same
The sceptic's praise, the bigot's
blame ; —

" I cannot doubt, if thou hadst been
Among the highly favored men
Who walked on earth with Fenelon,
He would have owned thee as his son ;

" And, bright with wings of cherubim
Visibly waving over him,

Seen through his life, the Church had
seemed
All that its old confessors dreamed.

" I would have been," Jean Jaques
replied,
" The humblest servant at his side,
Obscure, unknown, content to see
How beautiful man's life may be !

" O, more than thrice-blest relic, more
Than solemn rite or sacred lore,
The holy life of one who trod
The foot-marks of the Christ of God !

" Amidst a blinded world he saw
The oneness of the Dual law ;
That Heaven's sweet peace on Earth
began,
And God was loved through love of
man.

" He lived the Truth which reconciled
The strong man Reason, Faith the
child :
In him belief and act were one,
The homilies of duty done ! "

So speaking, through the twilight gray
The two old pilgrims went their way.
What seeds of life that day were sown,
The heavenly watchers knew alone.

Time passed, and Autumn came to fold
Green Summer in her brown and gold ;
Time passed, and Winter's tears of
snow
Dropped on the grave-mound of Rousseau.

" The tree remaineth where it fell,
The pained on earth is pained in hell ! "
So priestcraft from its altars cursed
The mournful doubts its falsehood
nursed.

Ah ! well of old the Psalmist prayed,
" Thy hand, not man's, on me be
laid ! "
Earth frowns below, Heaven weeps
above,
And man is hate, but God is love !

No Hermits now the wanderer sees,
Nor chapel with its chestnut-trees ;
A morning dream, a tale that's told,
The wave of change o'er all has rolled.

Yet lives the lesson of that day ;
And from its twilight cool and gray
Comes up a low, sad whisper, " Make
The truth thine own, for truth's own
sake.

" Why wait to see in thy brief span
Its perfect flower and fruit in man ?
No saintly touch can save ; no balm
Of healing hath the martyr's palm.

" Midst soulless forms, and false pre-
tence
Of spiritual pride and pampered sense,
A voice saith, ' What is that to thee ?
Be true thyself, and follow Me ! '

" In days when throne and altar heard
The wanton's wish, the bigot's word,
And pomp of state and ritual show
Scarce hid the loathsome death be-
low, —

" Midst fawning priests and courtiers
foul,
The losel swarm of crown and cowl,
White-robed walked François Fenelon,
Stainless as Uriel in the sun !

" Yet in his time the stake blazed red,
The poor were eaten up like bread ;
Men knew him not : his garment's hem
No healing virtue had for them.

" Alas ! no present saint we find ;
The white cymar gleams far behind,
Revealed in outline vague, sublime,
Through telescopic mists of time !

" Trust not in man with passing breath,
But in the Lord, old Scripture saith ;
The truth which saves thou mayst not
blend
With false professor, faithless friend.

" Search thine own heart. What pain-
eth thee
In others in thyself may be ;
All dust is frail, all flesh is weak ;
Be thou the true man thou dost seek !

" Where now with pain thou treadest,
trod
The whitest of the saints of God !
To show thee where their feet were set,
The light which led them shineth yet.

" The footprints of the life divine,
Which marked their path, remain in
thine ;
And that great Life, transfused in theirs,
Awaits thy faith, thy love, thy prayers ! "

A lesson which I well may heed,
A word of fitness to my need ;
So from that twilight cool and gray
Still saith a voice, or seems to say.

We rose, and slowly homeward turned,
While down the west the sunset
burned ;
And, in its light, hill, wood, and tide,
And human forms seemed glorified.

The village homes transfigured stood,
And purple bluffs, whose belting wood
Across the waters leaned to hold
The yellow leaves like lamps of gold.

Then spake my friend : " Thy words are
true ;
Forever old, forever new,
These home-seen splendors are the
same
Which over Eden's sunsets came.

" To these bowed heavens let wood
and hill
Lift voiceless praise and anthem still ;
Fall, warm with blessing, over them,
Light of the New Jerusalem !

" Flow on, sweet river, like the stream
Of John's Apocalyptic dream !
This mapled ridge shall Horeb be,
Yon green-banked lake our Galilee !

" Henceforth my heart shall sigh no
more
For olden time and holier shore ;
God's love and blessing, then and
there,
Are now and here and everywhere."

MISCELLANEOUS.

QUESTIONS OF LIFE.

And the angel that was sent unto me, whose name was Uriel, gave me an answer, and said,

"Thy heart hath gone too far in this world, and thinkest thou to comprehend the way of the Most High?"

Then said I, "Yea, my Lord."

Then said he unto me, "Go thy way, weigh me the weight of the fire, or measure me the blast of the wind, or call me again the day that is past." — *2 Esdras, chap. iv.*

A BENDING staff I would not break,
A feeble faith I would not shake,
Nor even rashly pluck away
The error which some truth may stay,
Whose loss might leave the soul without
A shield against the shafts of doubt.

And yet, at times, when over all
A darker mystery seems to fall,
(May God forgive the child of dust,
Who seeks to know, where Faith should
trust!)

I raise the questions, old and dark,
Of Uzdom's tempted patriarch,
And, speech-confounded, build again
The baffled tower of Shinar's plain.

I am : how little more I know !
Whence came I ? Whither do I go ?
A centred self, which feels and is ;
A cry between the silences ;
A shadow-birth of clouds at strife
With sunshine on the hills of life ;
A shaft from Nature's quiver cast
Into the Future from the Past ;
Between the cradle and the shroud,
A meteor's flight from cloud to cloud.

Thorough the vastness, arching all,
I see the great stars rise and fall,
The rounding seasons come and go,
The tided oceans ebb and flow ;
The tokens of a central force,
Whose circles, in their widening course,
O'erlap and move the universe ;
The workings of the law whence springs
The rhythmic harmony of things,
Which shapes in earth the darkling spar,
And orbs in heaven the morning star.

Of all I see, in earth and sky,—
Star, flower, beast, bird, — what part
have I ?

This conscious life, — is it the same
Which thrills the universal frame,
Whereby the caverned crystal shoots,
And mounts the sap from forest roots,
Whereby the exiled wood-bird tells
When Spring makes green her native
dells ?

How feels the stone the pang of birth,
Which brings its sparkling prism forth ?
The forest-tree the throb which gives
The life-blood to its new-born leaves ?
Do bird and blossom feel, like me,
Life's many-folded mystery, —
The wonder which it is to be ?
Or stand I severed and distinct,
From Nature's chain of life unlinked ?
Allied to all, yet not the less
Prisoned in separate consciousness,
Alone o'erburdened with a sense
Of life, and cause, and consequence ?

In vain to me the Sphinx propounds
The riddle of her sights and sounds ;
Back still the vaulted mystery gives
The echoed question it receives.
What sings the brook ? What oracle
Is in the pine-tree's organ swell ?
What may the wind's low burden be ?
The meaning of the moaning sea ?
The hieroglyphics of the stars ?
Or clouded sunset's crimson bars ?
I vainly ask, for mocks my skill
The trick of Nature's cipher still.

I turn from Nature unto men,
I ask the stylus and the pen :
What sang the bards of old ? What
meant
The prophets of the Orient ?
The rolls of buried Egypt, hid
In painted tomb and pyramid ?
What mean Idumea's arrowy lines,
Or dusk Elora's monstrous signs ?
How speaks the primal thought of man
From the grim carvings of Copan ?
Where rests the secret ? Where the
keys
Of the old death-bolted mysteries ?

Alas! the dead retain their trust ;
Dust hath no answer from the dust.

The great enigma still unguessed,
Unanswered the eternal quest ;
I gather up the scattered rays
Of wisdom in the early days,
Faint gleams and broken, like the light
Of meteors in a northern night,
Betraying to the darkling earth
The unseen sun which gave them birth ;
I listen to the sibyl's chant,
The voice of priest and hierophant ;
I know what Indian Kreesha saith,
And what of life and what of death
The demon taught to Socrates ;
And what, beneath his garden-trees
Slow pacing, with a dream-like tread,
The solemn-thoughted Plato said ;
Nor lack I tokens, great or small,
Of God's clear light in each and all,
While holding with more dear regard
The scroll of Hebrew seer and bard,
The starry pages promise-lit
With Christ's Evangel over-writ,
Thy miracle of life and death,
O holy one of Nazareth !

On Aztec ruins, gray and lone,
The circling serpent coils in stone, —
Type of the endless and unknown ;
Whereof we seek the clew to find,
With groping fingers of the blind !
Forever sought, and never found,
We trace that serpent-symbol round
Our resting-place, our starting bound !
O thriftlessness of dream and guess !
O wisdom which is foolishness !
Why idly seek from outward things
The answer inward silence brings ;
Why stretch beyond our proper sphere
And age, for that which lies so near ?
Why climb the far-off hills with pain,
A nearer view of heaven to gain ?
In lowliest depths of bosky dells
The hermit Contemplation dwells.
A fountain's pine-hung slope his seat,
And lotus-twined his silent feet,
Whence, piercing heaven, with screenéd
sight,
He sees at noon the stars, whose light
Shall glorify the coming night.

Here let me pause, my quest forego ;
Enough for me to feel and know

That he in whom the cause and end,
The past and future, meet and blend, —
Who, girt with his immensities,
Our vast and star-hung system sees,
Small as the clustered Pleiades, —
Moves not alone the heavenly quires,
But waves the spring-time's grassy
spires,
Guards not archangel feet alone,
But deigns to guide and keep my own ;
Speaks not alone the words of fate
Which worlds destroy, and worlds
create,
But whispers in my spirit's ear,
In tones of love, or warning fear,
A language none beside may hear.

To Him, from wanderings long and
wild,
I come, an over-wearied child,
In cool and shade his peace to find,
Like dew-fall settling on my mind.
Assured that all I know is best,
And humbly trusting for the rest,
I turn from Fancy's cloud-built scheme,
Dark creed, and mournful eastern
dream
Of power, impersonal and cold,
Controlling all, itself controlled,
Maker and slave of iron laws,
Alike the subject and the cause ;
From vain philosophies, that try
The sevenfold gates of mystery,
And, baffled ever, babble still,
Word-prodigal of fate and will ;
From Nature, and her mockery, Art,
And book and speech of men apart,
To the still witness in my heart ;
With reverence waiting to behold
His Avatár of love untold,
The Eternal Beauty new and old !

THE PRISONERS OF NAPLES.

I HAVE been thinking of the victims
bound
In Naples, dying for the lack of air
And sunshine, in their close, damp
cells of pain,
Where hope is not, and innocence in
vain
Appeals against the torture and the
chain !

Unfortunate! whose crime it was to share
 Our common love of freedom, and to dare,
 In its behalf, Rome's harlot triple-crowned,
 And her base pander, the most hateful thing
 Who upon Christian or on Pagan ground
 Makes vile the old heroic name of king.
 O God most merciful! Father just and kind!
 Whom man hath bound let thy right hand unbind.
 Or, if thy purposes of good behind Their ills lie hidden, let the sufferers find
 Strong consolations; leave them not to doubt
 Thy providential care, nor yet without The hope which all thy attributes inspire,
 That not in vain the martyr's robe of fire
 Is worn, nor the sad prisoner's fretting chain;
 Since all who suffer for thy truth send forth,
 Electrical, with every throb of pain, Unquenchable sparks, thy own baptismal rain
 Of fire and spirit over all the earth, Making the dead in slavery live again.
 Let this great hope be with them, as they lie
 Shut from the light, the greenness, and the sky,—
 From the cool waters and the pleasant breeze,
 The smell of flowers, and shade of summer trees;
 Bound with the felon lepers, whom disease
 And sins abhorred make loathsome; let them share
 Pellico's faith, Foresti's strength to bear
 Years of unutterable torment, stern and still,
 As the chained Titan victor through his will!
 Comfort them with thy future; let them see
 The day-dawn of Italian liberty;

For that, with all good things, is hid with Thee,
 And, perfect in thy thought, awaits its time to be!
 I, who have spoken for freedom at the cost
 Of some weak friendships, or some paltry prize
 Of name or place, and more than I have lost
 Have gained in wider reach of sympathies,
 And free communion with the good and wise,—
 May God forbid that I should ever boast
 Such easy self-denial, or repine
 That the strong pulse of health no more is mine;
 That, overworn at noonday, I must yield
 To other hands the gleanings of the field,—
 A tired on-looker through the day's decline.
 For blest beyond deserving still, and knowing
 That kindly Providence its care is showing
 In the withdrawal as in the bestowing,
 Scarcely I dare for more or less to pray.
 Beautiful yet for me this autumn day Melts on its sunset hills; and, far away, For me the Ocean lifts its solemn psalm,
 To me the pine-woods whisper; and for me
 Yon river, winding through its vales of calm,
 By greenest banks, with asters purple-starred,
 And gentian bloom and golden-rod made gay,
 Flows down in silent gladness to thesea, Like a pure spirit to its great reward!
 Nor lack I friends, long-tried and near and dear,
 Whose love is round me like this atmosphere,
 Warm, soft and golden. For such gifts to me
 What shall I render. O my God, to thee?

Let me not dwell upon my lighter share
Of pain and ill that human life must
bear;
Save me from selfish pining; let my
heart,
Drawn from itself in sympathy, forget
The bitter longings of a vain regret,
The anguish of its own peculiar smart.
Remembering others, as I have to-day,
In their great sorrows, let me live alway
Not for myself alone, but have a part,
Such as a frail and erring spirit may,
In love which is of Thee, and which
indeed Thou art!

MOLOCH IN STATE STREET.

The moon has set: while yet the dawn
Breaks cold and gray,
Between the midnight and the morn
Bear off your prey!

On, swift and still! — the conscious
street
Is panged and stirred:
Tread light! — that fall of serried feet
The dead have heard!

The first drawn blood of Freedom's
veins
Gushed where ye tread;
Lo! through the dusk the martyr-stains
Blush darkly red!

Beneath the slowly waning stars
And whitening day,
What stern and awful presence bars
That sacred way?

What faces frown upon ye, dark
With shame and pain?
Come these from Plymouth's Pilgrim
bark?
Is that young Vane?

Who, dimly beckoning, speed ye on
With mocking cheer?
Lo! spectral Andros, Hutchinson,
And Gage, are here!

For ready mart or favoring blast
Through Moloch's fire

Flesh of his flesh, unsparing, passed
The Tyrian sire.

Ye make that ancient sacrifice
Of Man to Gain,
Your traffic thrives, where Freedom
dies,
Beneath the chain.

Ye sow to-day, your harvest, scorn
And hate, is near;
How think ye freemen, mountain-born,
The tale will hear?

Thank God! our mother State can yet
Her fame retrieve;
To you and to your children let
The scandal cleave.

Chain Hall and Pulpit, Court and Press,
Make gods of gold;
Let honor, truth, and manliness
Like wares be sold.

Your hoards are great, your walls are
strong,
But God is just;
The gilded chambers built by wrong
Invite the rust.

What! know ye not the gains of Crime
Are dust and dross;
Its ventures on the waves of time
Foredoomed to loss!

And still the Pilgrim State remains
What she hath been;
Her inland hills, her seaward plains,
Still nurture men!

Nor wholly lost the fallen mart, —
Her oiden blood
Through many a free and generous heart
Still pours its flood.

That brave old blood, quick-flowing yet,
Shall know no check,
Till a free people's foot is set
On Slavery's neck.

Even now, the peal of bell and gun,
And hills afame,
Tell of the first great triumph won
In Freedom's name.⁴⁴

The long night dies : the welcome gray
 Of dawn we see ;
 Speed up the heavens thy perfect day,
 God of the free !
 1851.

THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

1852.

"GREAT peace in Europe ! Order reigns
 From Tiber's hills to Danube's plains!"
 So say her kings and priests ; so say
 The lying prophets of our day.

Go lay to earth a listening ear ;
 The tramp of measured marches hear, —
 The rolling of the cannon's wheel,
 The shotted musket's murderous peal,
 The night alarm, the sentry's call,
 The quick-eared spy in hut and hall !
 From Polar sea and tropic sun
 The dying-groans of exiled men !
 The bolted cell, the galley's chains,
 The scaffold smoking with its stains !
 Order, — the hush of brooding slaves !
 Peace, — in the dungeon-vaults and
 graves !

O Fisher ! of the world-wide net,
 With meshes in all waters set,
 Whose fabled keys of heaven and hell
 Bolt hard the patriot's prison-cell,
 And open wide the banquet-hall,
 Where kings and priests hold carnival !
 Weak vassal tricked in royal guise,
 Boy Kaiser with thy lip of lies ;
 Base gambler for Napoleon's crown,
 Barnacle on his dead renown !
 Thou, Bourbon Neapolitan,
 Crowned scandal, loathed of God and
 man ;
 And thou, fell Spider of the North !
 Stretching thy giant feelers forth,
 Within whose web the freedom dies
 Of nations eaten up like flies !
 Speak, Prince and Kaiser, Priest and
 Czar !
 If this be Peace, pray what is War ?
 White Angel of the Lord ! unmeet
 That soil accursed for thy pure feet.

Never in Slavery's desert flows
 The fountain of thy charmed repose ;
 No tyrant's hand thy chaplet weaves
 Of lilies and of olive-leaves ;
 Not with the wicked shalt thou dwell,
 Thus saith the Eternal Oracle ;
 Thy home is with the pure and free !
 Stern herald of thy better day,
 Before thee, to prepare thy way,
 The Baptist Shade of Liberty,
 Gray, scarred and hairy-robed, must
 press
 With bleeding feet the wilderness !
 O that its voice might pierce the ear
 Of princes, trembling while they hear
 A cry as of the Hebrew seer :
 Repent ! God's kingdom draweth nea

WORDSWORTH.

WRITTEN ON A BLANK LEAF OF HIS
 MEMOIRS.

DEAR friends, who read the world aright,
 And in its common forms discern
 A beauty and a harmony
 The many never learn !

Kindred in soul of him who found
 In simple flower and leaf and stone
 The impulse of the sweetest lays
 Our Saxon tongue has known, —

Accept this record of a life
 As sweet and pure, as calm and good,
 As a long day of blandest June
 In green field and in wood.

How welcome to our ears, long pained
 By strife of sect and party noise,
 The brook-like murmur of his song
 Of nature's simple joys !

The violet by its mossy stone,
 The primrose by the river's brim,
 And chance-sown daffodil, have found
 Immortal life through him.

The sunrise on his breezy lake,
 The rosy tints his sunset brought,
 World-seen, are gladdening all the vales
 And mountain-peaks of thought.

Art builds on sand ; the works of pride
 And human passion change and fall :
 But that which shares the life of God
 With him surviveth all.

TO ——.

LINES WRITTEN AFTER A SUMMER DAY'S EXCURSION.

FAIR Nature's priestesses ! to whom,
 In hieroglyph of bud and bloom,
 Her mysteries are told ;
 Who, wise in lore of wood and mead,
 The seasons' pictured scrolls can read,
 In lessons manifold !

Thanks for the courtesy, and gay
 Good-humor, which on Washing Day
 Our ill-timed visit bore ;
 Thanks for your graceful oars, which
 broke
 The morning dreams of Artichoke,
 Along his wooded shore !

Varied as varying Nature's ways,
 Sprites of the river, woodland fays,
 Or mountain nymphs, ye seem ;
 Free-limbed Dianas on the green,
 Loch Katrine's Ellen, or Undine,
 Upon your favorite stream.

The forms of which the poets told,
 The fair benignities of old,
 Were doubtless such as you ;
 What more than Artichoke the rill
 Of Helicon ? Than Pipe-stave hill
 Arcadia's mountain-view ?

No sweeter bowers the bee delayed,
 In wild Hymettus' scented shade,
 Than those you dwell among ;
 Snow-flowered azalias, intertwined
 With roses, over banks inclined
 With trembling harebells hung !

A charmed life unknown to death,
 Immortal freshness Nature hath ;
 Her fabled fount and glen
 Are now and here : Dodona's shrine
 Still murmurs in the wind-swept pine, —
 All is that e'er hath been.

The Beauty which old Greece or Rome
 Sung, painted, wrought, lies close at
 home ;

We need but eye and ear
 In all our daily walks to trace
 The outlines of incarnate grace,
 The hymns of gods to hear !

IN PEACE.

A TRACK of moonlight on a quiet lake,
 Whose small waves on a silver-sand-
 ed shore
 Whisper of peace, and with the low
 winds make
 Such harmonies as keep the woods
 awake,
 And listening all night long for their
 sweet sake

A green-waved slope of meadow,
 hovered o'er
 By angel-troops of lilies, swaying light
 On viewless stems, with folded wings
 of white ;
 A slumberous stretch of mountain-land,
 far seen
 Where the low westering day, with
 gold and green,
 Purple and amber, softly blended, fills
 The wooded vales, and melts among
 the hills ;
 A vine-fringed river, winding to its rest
 On the calm bosom of a stormless sea,
 Bearing alike upon its placid breast,
 With earthly flowers and heavenly stars
 impressed,

The hues of time and of eternity :
 Such are the pictures which the thought
 of thee,
 O friend, awakeneth, — charming the
 keen pain
 Of thy departure, and our sense of loss
 Requiring with the fulness of thy gain.
 Lo ! on the quiet grave thy life-borne
 cross,
 Dropped only at its side, methinks doth
 shine,
 Of thy beatitude the radiant sign !
 No sob of grief, no wild lament be
 there,
 To break the Sabbath of the holy air;

But, in their stead, the silent-breathing
prayer
Of hearts still waiting for a rest like
thine.
O spirit redeemed ! Forgive us, if
henceforth,
With sweet and pure similitudes of
earth,
We keep thy pleasant memory freshly
green,
Of love's inheritance a priceless part,
Which Fancy's self, in reverent awe,
is seen
To paint, forgetful of the tricks of art,
With pencil dipped alone in colors of
the heart.

BENEDICITE.

God's love and peace be with thee,
where
Soe'er this soft autumnal air
Lifts the dark tresses of thy hair !

Whether through city casements comes
Its kiss to thee, in crowded rooms,
Or, out among the woodland blooms,

It freshens o'er thy thoughtful face,
Imparting, in its glad embrace,
Beauty to beauty, grace to grace !

Fair Nature's book together read,
The old wood-paths that knew our tread,
The maple shadows overhead, —

The hills we climbed, the river seen
By gleams along its deep ravine, —
All keep thy memory fresh and green.

Where'er I look, where'er I stray,
Thy thought goes with me on my way,
And hence the prayer I breathe to-day ;

O'er lapse of time and change of scene,
The weary waste which lies between
Thyself and me, my heart I lean.

Thou lack'st not Friendship's spell-
word, nor
The half-unconscious power to draw
All hearts to thine by Love's sweet law.

With these good gifts of God is cast
Thy lot, and many a charm thou hast
To hold the blessed angels fast.

If, then, a fervent wish for thee
The gracious heavens will heed from
me,
What should, dear heart, its burden be ?

The sighing of a shaken reed, —
What can I more than meekly plead
The greatness of our common need ?

God's love, — unchanging, pure, and
true, —
The Paraclete white-shining through
His peace, — the fall of Hermon's dew !

With such a prayer, on this sweet day,
As thou mayst hear and I may say,
I greet thee, dearest, far away !

PICTURES.

L.

LIGHT, warmth, and sprouting green-
ness, and o'er all
Blue, stainless, steel-bright ether,
raining down
Tranquillity upon the deep-hushed
town,
The freshening meadows, and the
hillsides brown ;
Voice of the west-wind from the
hills of pine,
And the brimmed river from its dis-
tant fall,
Low hum of bees, and joyous inter-
lude
Of bird-songs in the streamlet-skirt-
ing wood, —
Heralds and prophecies of sound and
sight,
Blessed forerunners of the warmth
and light,
Attendant angels to the house of prayer,
With reverent footsteps keeping
pace with mine, —
Once more, through God's great love,
with you I share
A morn of resurrection sweet and fair

As that which saw, of old, in Palestine,
Immortal Love uprising in fresh bloom
From the dark night and winter of the tomb !

5th mo., 2d, 1852.

II.

White with its sun-bleached dust, the pathway winds
Before me ; dust is on the shrunken grass,
And on the trees beneath whose boughs I pass ;
Frail screen against the Hunter of the sky,
Who, glaring on me with his lidless eye,
While mounting with his dog-star high and higher
Ambushed in light intolerable, unbinds
The burnished quiver of his shafts of fire.
Between me and the hot fields of his South
A tremulous glow, as from a furnace-mouth,
Glimmers and swims before my dazzled sight,
As if the burning arrows of his ire
Broke as they fell, and shattered into light ;
Yet on my cheek I feel the western wind,
And hear it telling to the orchard trees,
And to the faint and flower-forsaken bees,
Tales of fair meadows, green with constant streams,
And mountains rising blue and cool behind,
Where in moist dells the purple orchis gleams,
And starred with white the virgin's bower is twined.
So the o'erwearied pilgrim, as he fares
Along life's summer waste, at times is fanned,
Even at noon tide, by the cool, sweet airs
Of a serener and a holier land,

Fresh as the morn, and as the dew-fall bland.
Breath of the blessed Heaven for which we pray,
Blow from the eternal hills ! — make glad our earthly way !

8th mo., 1852.

DERNE.^{ss}

NIGHT on the city of the Moor !
On mosque and tomb, and white-walled shore,
On sea-waves, to whose ceaseless knock
The narrow harbor-gates unlock,
On corsair's galley, carack tall,
And plundered Christian caravan !
The sounds of Moslem life are still ;
No mule-bell tinkles down the hill ;
Stretched in the broad court of the khan,
The dusty Bornou caravan
Lies heaped in slumber, beast and man ;
The Sheik is dreaming in his tent,
His noisy Arab tongue o'erspent ;
The kiosk's glimmering lights are gone,
The merchant with his wares withdrawn ;
Rough pillow'd on some pirate breast,
The dancing-girl has sunk to rest ;
And, save where measured footsteps fall
Along the Bashaw's guarded wall,
Or where, like some bad dream, the Jew
Creeps stealthily his quarter through,
Or counts with fear his golden heaps,
The City of the Corsair sleeps !

But where yon prison long and low
Stands black against the pale star-glow,
Chafed by the ceaseless wash of waves,
There watch and pine the Christian slaves : —
Rough-bearded men, whose far-off wives
Wear out with grief their lonely lives ;
And youth, still flashing from his eyes
The clear blue of New England skies

A treasured lock of whose soft hair
Now wakes some sorrowing mother's
prayer ;
Or, worn upon some maiden breast,
Stirs with the loving heart's unrest !

A bitter cup each life must drain,
The groaning earth is cursed with pain,
And, like the scroll the angel bore
The shuddering Hebrew seer before,
O'erwrit alike, without, within,
With all the woes which follow sin ;
But, bitterest of the ills beneath
Whose load man totters down to death,
Is that which plucks the regal crown
Of Freedom from his forehead down,
And snatches from his powerless hand
The sceptred sign of self-command,
Efacing with the chain and rod
The image and the seal of God ;
Till from his nature, day by day,
The manly virtues fall away,
And leave him naked, blind and mute,
The godlike merging in the brute !

Why mourn the quiet ones who die
Beneath affection's tender eye,
Unto their household and their kin
Like ripened corn-sheaves gathered in ?
O weeper, from that tranquil sod,
That holy harvest-home of God,
Turn to the quick and suffering, — shed
Thy tears upon the living dead !
Thank God above thy dear ones' graves,
They sleep with Him, — they are not
slaves.

What dark mass, down the mountain-sides
Swift-pouring, like a stream divides ? —
A long, loose, straggling caravan,
Camel and horse and arm'd man.
The moon's low crescent, glimmering
o'er
Its grave of waters to the shore,
Lights up that mountain cavalcade,
And glints from gun and spear and
blade
Near and more near ! — now o'er them
falls
The shadow of the city walls.
Hark to the sentry's challenge, drowned
In the fierce trumpet's charging
sound ! —

The rush of men, the musket's peal,
The short, sharp clang of meeting
steel !

Vain, Moslem, vain thy lifeblood poured
So freely on thy foeman's sword !
Not to the swift nor to the strong
The battles of the right belong ;
For he who strikes for Freedom wears
The armor of the captive's prayers,
And Nature proffers to his cause
The strength of her eternal laws ;
While he whose arm essays to bind
And herd with common brutes his kind
Strives evermore at fearful odds
With Nature and the jealous gods,
And dares the dread recoil which late
Or soon their right shall vindicate.

'T is done, — the hornéd crescent falls !
The star-flag flouts the broken walls !
Joy to the captive husband ! joy
To thy sick heart, O brown-locked boy !
In sullen wrath the conquered Moor
Wide open flings your dungeon-door,
And leaves ye free from cell and chain,
The owners of yourselves again.
Dark as his allies desert-born,
Soiled with the battle's stain, and worn
With the long marches of his band
Through hottest wastes of rock and
sand, —
Scorched by the sun and furnace-breath
Of the red desert's wind of death,
With welcome words and grasping
hands,
The victor and deliverer stands !

The tale is one of distant skier ;
The dust of half a century lies
Upon it ; yet its hero's name
Still lingers on the lips of Fame.
Men speak the praise of him who gave
Deliverance to the Moorman's slave,
Yet dare to brand with shame and crime
The heroes of our land and time, —
The self-forgetful ones, who stake
Home, name, and life for Freedom's
sake.
God mend his heart who cannot feel
The impulse of a holy zeal,
And sees not, with his sordid eyes,
The beauty of self-sacrifice !

Though in the sacred place he stands,
Uplifting consecrated hands,
Unworthy are his lips to tell
Of Jesus' martyr-miracle,
Or name aright that dread embrace
Of suffering for a fallen race !

—
ASTRÆA.

"Jove means to settle
Astræa in her seat again,
And let down from his golden chain
An age of better metal."

BEN JONSON, 1615.

O POET rare and old !
Thy words are prophecies ;
Forward the age of gold,
The new Saturnian lies.

The universal prayer
And hope are not in vain ;
Rise, brothers ! and prepare
The way for Saturn's reign.

Perish shall all which takes
From labor's board and can ;
Perish shall all which makes
A spaniel of the man !

Free from its bonds the mind,
The body from the rod ;
Broken all chains that bind
The image of our God.

Just men no longer pine
Behind their prison-bars ;
Through the rent dungeon shine
The free sun and the stars.

Earth own, at last, untrod
By sect, or caste, or clan,
The fatherhood of God,
The brotherhood of man !

Fraud fail, craft perish, forth
The monzy-changers driven,
And God's will done on earth,
As now in heaven !

—
INVOCATION.

THROUGH thy clear spaces, Lord, of old,
Formless and void the dead earth rolled ;

Deaf to thy heaven's sweet music, blind
To the great lights which o'er it shined ;
No sound, no ray, no warmth, no
breath, —
A dumb despair, a wandering death.

To that dark, weltering horror came
Thy spirit, like a subtle flame, —
A breath of life electrical,
Awakening and transforming all,
Till beat and thrilled in every part
The pulses of a living heart.

Then knew their bounds the land and
sea ;
Then smiled the bloom of mead and
tree ;
From flower to moth, from beast to man,
The quick creative impulse ran ;
And earth, with life from thee renewed,
Was in thy holy eyesight good.

As lost and void, as dark and cold
And formless as that earth of old, —
A wandering waste of storm and night,
Midst spheres of song and realms of
light, —
A blot upon thy holy sky,
Untouched, unwarned of thee, am I.

O thou who movest on the deep
Of spirits, wake my own from sleep !
Its darkness melt, its coldness warm,
The lost restore, the ill transform,
That flower and fruit henceforth may be
Its grateful offering, worthy thee.

—
THE CROSS.

ON THE DEATH OF RICHARD DILLINGHAM, IN THE NASHVILLE PENITENTIARY.

"THE cross, if rightly borne, shall be
No burden, but support to thee" ; *
So, moved of old time for our sake,
The holy monk of Kempen spake.

Thou brave and true one ! upon whom
Was laid the cross of martyrdom,

* Thomas à Kempis. *Imit. Christ.*

How didst thou, in thy generous youth,
Bear witness to this blessed truth !

Thy cross of suffering and of shame
A staff within thy hands became,
In paths where faith alone could see
The Master's steps supporting thee.

Thine was the seed-time ; God alone
Beholds the end of what is sown ;
Beyond our vision, weak and dim,
The harvest-time is hid with Him.

Yet, unforgotten where it lies,
That seed of generous sacrifice,
Though seeming on the desert cast,
Shall rise with bloom and fruit at last.

E V A.

Dry the tears for holy Eva,
With the blessed angels leave her ;
Of the form so soft and fair
Give to earth the tender care.

For the golden locks of Eva
Let the sunny south-land give her
Flowery pillow of repose, —
Orange-bloom and budding rose.

In the better home of Eva
Let the shining ones receive her,
With the welcome-voiced psalm,
Harp of gold and waving palm !

All is light and peace with Eva ;
There the darkness cometh never ;
Tears are wiped, and fetters fall,
And the Lord is all in all.

Weep no more for happy Eva,
Wrong and sin no more shall grieve her ;
Care and pain and weariness
Lost in love so measureless.

Gentle Eva, loving Eva,
Child confessor, true believer,
Listener at the Master's knee,
"Suffer such to come to me."

O, for faith like thine, sweet Eva,
Lighting all the solemn river,
And the blessings of the poor
Wafting to the heavenly shore !

TO FREDRIKA BREMER.¹

SEERESS of the misty Norland,
Daughter of the Vikings bold,
Welcome to the sunny Vineland,
Which thy fathers sought of old !

Soft as flow of Silja's waters,
When the moon of summer shines,
Strong as Winter from his mountainous
Roaring through the sleeted pines.

Heart and ear, we long have listened !
To thy saga, rune, and song,
As a household joy and presence
We have known and loved thee long.

By the mansion's marble mantel,
Round the log-walled cabin's heart !
Thy sweet thoughts and northern fancie's
Meet and mingle with our mirth.

And o'er weary spirits keeping
Sorrow's night-watch, long and chill
Shine they like thy sun of summer
Over midnight vale and hill.

We alone to thee are strangers,
Thou our friend and teacher art ;
Come, and know us as we know thee !
Let us meet thee heart to heart !

To our homes and household altars
We, in turn, thy steps would lead,
As thy loving hand has led us
O'er the threshold of the Swede.

A P R I L.

"The spring comes slowly up this way."
Christabel

'T is the noon of the spring-time, yet
never a bird
In the wind-shaken elm or the maple is
heard ;
For green meadow-grasses wide levels
of snow,
And blowing of drifts where the crocus
should blow ;
Where wind-flower and violet, amber
and white,
On south-sloping brooksaides should
smile in the light,

For the cold winter-beds of their late-waking roots
 The frosty flake eddies, the ice-crystal shoots ;
 And, longing for light, under wind-driven heaps,
 Round the boles of the pine-wood the ground-laurel creeps,
 Unkissed of the sunshine, unbaptized of showers,
 With buds scarcely swelled, which should burst into flowers !
 We wait for thy coming, sweet wind of the south !
 For the touch of thy light wings, the kiss of thy mouth ;
 For the yearly evangel thou bearest from God,
 Resurrection and life to the graves of the sod !
 Up our long river-valley, for days, have not ceased
 The wail and the shriek of the bitter northeast,—
 Raw and chill, as if winnowed through ices and snow,
 All the way from the land of the wild Esquimaus,—
 Until all our dreams of the land of the blest,
 Like that red hunter's, turn to the sunny southwest.
 Soul of the spring-time, its light and its breath,
 Bring warmth to this coldness, bring life to this death ;
 Renew the great miracle ; let us behold
 The stone from the mouth of the sepulchre rolled,
 And Nature, like Lazarus, rise, as of old !
 Jet our faith, which in darkness and coldness has lain,
 Revive with the warmth and the brightness again,
 And in blooming of flower and budding of tree
 The symbols and types of our destiny see ;
 The life of the spring-time, the life of the whole,
 And, as sun to the sleeping earth, love to the soul !

STANZAS FOR THE TIMES.

1850.

THE evil days have come, — the poor Are made a prey ;
 Bar up the hospitable door, Put out the fire-lights, point no more The wanderer's way.

For Pity now is crime ; the chain Which binds our States Is melted at her hearth in twain, Is rusted by her tears' soft rain : Close up her gates.

Our Union, like a glacier stirred By voice below, Or bell of kine, or wing of bird, A beggar's crust, a kindly word May overthrow !

Poor, whispering tremblers ! — yet we boast Our blood and name ; Bursting its century-bolted frost, Each gray cairn on the Northman's coast Cries out for shame !

O for the open firmament, The prairie free, The desert hillside, cavern-rent, The Pawnee's lodge, the Arab's tent, The Bushman's tree !

Than web of Persian loom most rare, Or soft divan, Better the rough rock, bleak and bare, Or hollow tree, which man may share With suffering man.

I hear a voice : "Thus saith the Law, Let Love be dumb ; Clasping her liberal hands in awe, Let sweet-lipped Charity withdraw From hearth and home."

I hear another voice : "The poor Are thine to feed ; Turn not the outcast from thy door, Nor give to bonds and wrong once more Whom God hath freed."

Dear Lord ! between that law and thee
No choice remains ;
Yet not untrue to man's decree,
Though spurning its rewards, is he
Who bears its pains.

Not mine Sedition's trumpet-blast
And threatening word ;
I read the lesson of the Past,
That firm endurance wins at last
More than the sword.

O clear-eyed Faith, and Patience, thou
So calm and strong !
Lend strength to weakness, teach us
how
The sleepless eyes of God look through
This night of wrong !

A SABBATH SCENE.

SCARCE had the solemn Sabbath-bell
Ceased quivering in the steeple,
Scarce had the parson to his desk
Walked stately through his people,

When down the summer-shaded street
A wasted female figure,
With dusky brow and naked feet,
Came rushing wild and eager.

She saw the white spire through the
trees,
She heard the sweet hymn swelling :
O pitying Christ ! a refuge give
That poor one in thy dwelling !

Like a scared fawn before the hounds,
Right up the aisle she glided,
While close behind her, whip in hand,
A lank-haired hunter strided. —

She raised a keen and bitter cry,
To Heaven and Earth appealing : —
Were manhood's generous pulses dead ?
Had woman's heart no feeling ?

A score of stout hands rose between
The hunter and the flying :
Age clenched his staff, and maiden eyes
Flashed tearful, yet defying.

" Who dares profane this house and
day ? "
Cried out the angry pastor.
" Why, bless your soul, the wench 's a
slave,
And I 'm her lord and master !

" I 've law and gospel on my side,
And who shall dare refuse me ? "
Down came the parson, bowing low,
" My good sir, pray excuse me !

" Of course I know your right divine
To own and work and whip her :
Quick, deacon, throw that Polyglott
Before the wench, and trip her ! "

Plump dropped the holy tome, and o'er
Its sacred pages stumbling,
Bound hand and foot, a slave once more,
The hapless wretch lay trembling.

I saw the parson tie the knots,
The while his flock addressing,
The Scriptural claims of slavery
With text on text impressing.

" Although," said he, " on Sabbath day,
All secular occupations
Are deadly sins, we must fulfil
Our moral obligations :

" And this commands itself as one
To every conscience tender ;
As Paul sent back Onesimus,
My Christian friends, we send her ! "

Shriek rose on shriek, — the Sabbath air
Her wild cries tore asunder ;
I listened, with hushed breath, to hear
God answering with his thunder !

All still ! — the very altar's cloth
Had smothered down her shrieking,
And, dumb, she turned from face to
face,
For human pity seeking !

I saw her dragged along the aisle,
Her shackles harshly clanking ;
I heard the parson, over all,
The Lord devoutly thanking !

My brain took fire : " Is this," I cried,
 " The end of prayer and preaching ?
 Then down with pulpit, down with
 priest,
 And give us Nature's teaching !

" Foul shame and scorn be on ye all
 Who turn the good to evil,
 And steal the Bible from the Lord,
 To give it to the Devil !

" Than garbled text or parchment law
 I own a statute higher ;
 And God is true, though every book
 And every man 's a liar ! "

Just then I felt the deacon's hand
 In wrath my coat-tail seize on ;
 I heard the priest cry, " Infidel ! "
 The lawyer mutter, " Treason ! "

I started up,— where now were church,
 Slave, master, priest, and people ?
 I only heard the supper-bell,
 Instead of clanging steeple.

But, on the open window's sill,
 O'er which the white blooms drifted,
 The pages of a good old Book
 The wind of summer lifted.

And flower and vine, like angel wings
 Around the Holy Mother,
 Waved softly there, as if God's truth
 And Mercy kissed each other.

And freely from the cherry-bough
 Above the casement swinging,
 With golden bosom to the sun,
 The oriole was singing.

As bird and flower made plain of old
 The lesson of the Teacher,
 So now I heard the written Word
 Interpreted by Nature !

For to my ear methought the breeze
 Bore Freedom's blessed word on ;
 THUS SAITH THE LORD : BREAK
 EVERY YOKE,
 UNDO THE HEAVY BURDEN !

REMEMBRANCE.

WITH COPIES OF THE AUTHOR'S WRITINGS.

FRIEND of mine ! whose lot was cast
 With me in the distant past, —
 Where, like shadows flitting fast,

Fact and fancy, thought and theme,
 Word and work, begin to seem
 Like a half-remembered dream !

Touched by change have all things been,
 Yet I think of thee as when
 We had speech of lip and pen.

For the calm thy kindness lent
 To a path of discontent,
 Rough with trial and dissent ;

Gentle words where such were few,
 Softening blame where blame was true,
 Praising where small praise was due ;

For a waking dream made good,
 For an ideal understood,
 For thy Christian womanhood ;

For thy marvellous gift to cull
 From our common life and dull
 Whatsoe'er is beautiful ;

Thoughts and fancies, Hybla's bees
 Dropping sweetness ; true heart's-ease
 Of congenial sympathies ; —

Still for these I own my debt ;
 Memory, with her eyelids wet,
 Fain would thank thee even yet !

And as one who scatters flowers
 Where the Queen of May's sweet hours
 Sits, o'ertwined with blossomed bower,

In superfluous zeal bestowing
 Gifts where gifts are overflowing,
 So I pay the debt I 'm owing.

To thy full thoughts, gay or sad,
 Sunny-hued or solar clad,
 Something of my own I add ;

Well assured that thou wilt take
 Even the offering which I make
 Kindly for the giver's sake.

THE POOR VOTER ON ELECTION DAY.

THE proudest now is but my peer,
The highest not more high ;
To-day, of all the weary year,
A king of men am I.
To-day, alike are great and small,
The nameless and the known ;
My palace is the people's hall,
The ballot-box my throne !

Who serves to-day upon the list
Beside the served shall stand ;
Alike the brown and wrinkled fist,
The gloved and dainty hand !
The rich is level with the poor,
The weak is strong to-day ;
And sleekest broadcloth counts no more
Than homespun frock of gray.

To-day let pomp and vain pretence
My stubborn right abide ;
I set a plain man's common sense
Against the pedant's pride.
To-day shall simple manhood try
The strength of gold and land ;
The wide world has not wealth to buy
The power in my right hand !

While there's a grief to seek redress,
Or balance to adjust,
Where weighs our living manhood less
Than Mammon's vilest dust, —
While there's a right to need my vote,
A wrong to sweep away,
Up ! clouted knee and ragged coat !
A man's a man to-day !

TRUST.

THE same old baffling questions ! O
my friend,
I cannot answer them. In vain I send
My soul into the dark, where never burn
The lamps of science, nor the natural light
Of Reason's sun and stars ! I cannot
learn
Their great and solemn meanings, nor
discern
The awful secrets of the eyes which turn

Evermore on us through the day and
night
With silent challenge and a dumb
demand,
Proffering the riddles of the dread unknown,
Like the calm Sphinxes, with their eyes
of stone,
Questioning the centuries from their
veils of sand !
I have no answer for myself or thee,
Save that I learned beside my mother's
knee :
" All is of God that is, and is to be ;
And God is good." Let this suffice
us still,
Resting in childlike trust upon his
will
Who moves to his great ends un thwarted
by the ill.

KATHLEEN.

O NORAH, lay your basket down,
And rest your weary hand,
And come and hear me sing a song
Of our old Ireland.

There was a lord of Galaway,
A mighty lord was he ;
And he did wed a second wife,
A maid of low degree.

But he was old, and she was young,
And so, in evil spite,
She baked the black bread for his kin,
And fed her own with white.

She whipped the maids and starved the kern,
And drove away the poor ;
" Ah, woe is me !" the old lord said,
" I rue my bargain sore ! "

This lord he had a daughter fair,
Beloved of old and young,
And nightly round the shealing-fires
Of her the gleeman sung.

" As sweet and good is young Kathleen
As Eve before her fall " ;
So sang the harper at the fair,
So harped he in the hall.

"O come to me, my daughter dear !
Come sit upon my knee,
For looking in your face, Kathleen,
Your mother's own I see ! "

He smoothed and smoothed her hair
away,
He kissed her forehead fair ;
"It is my darling Mary's brow,
It is my darling's hair ! "

O, then spake up the angry dame,
"Get up, get up," quoth she,
"I'll sell ye over Ireland,
I'll sell ye o'er the sea ! "

She clipped her glossy hair away,
That none her rank might know,
She took away her gown of silk,
And gave her one of tow,

And sent her down to Limerick town,
And to a seaman sold
This daughter of an Irish lord
For ten good pounds in gold.

The lord he smote upon his breast,
And tore his beard so gray :
But he was old, and she was young,
And so she had her way.

Sure that same night the Banshee
howled
To fright the evil dame,
And fairy folks, who loved Kathleen,
With funeral torches came.

She watched them glancing through the
trees,
And glimmering down the hill ;
They crept before the dead-vault door,
And there they all stood still !

"Get up, old man ! the wake-lights
shine ! "
"Ye murthering witch," quoth he,
"So I'm rid of your tongue, I little
care
If they shine for you or me."

"O, whoso brings my daughter back,
My gold and land shall have ! "
O, then spake up his handsome page,
"No gold nor land I crave !

"But give to me your daughter dear,
Give sweet Kathleen to me,
Be she on sea or be she on land,
I'll bring her back to thee."

"My daughter is a lady born,
And you of low degree,
But she shall be your bride the day
You bring her back to me."

He sailed east, he sailed west,
And far and long sailed he,
Until he came to Boston town,
Across the great salt sea.

"O, have ye seen the young Kathleen,
The flower of Ireland ?
Ye'll know her by her eyes so blue,
And by her snow-white hand ! "

Out spake an ancient man, "I know
The maiden whom ye mean ;
I bought her of a Limerick man,
And she is called Kathleen.

"No skill hath she in household work,
Her hands are soft and white,
Yet well by loving looks and ways
She doth her cost requite."

So up they walked through Boston town,
And met a maiden fair,
A little basket on her arm
So snowy-white and bare.

"Come hither, child, and say hast thou
This young man ever seen ?"
They wept within each other's arms,
The page and young Kathleen.

"O give to me this darling child,
And take my purse of gold."
"Nay, not by me," her master said,
"Shall sweet Kathleen be sold.

"We loved her in the place of one
The Lord hath early ta'en ;
But, since her heart's in Ireland,
We give her back again ! "

O, for that same the saints in heaven
For his poor soul shall pray,
And Mary Mother wash with tears
His heresies away.

Sure now they dwell in Ireland,
As you go up Claremore
Ye'll see their castle looking down
The pleasant Galway shore.

And the old lord's wife is dead and gone,
And a happy man is he,
For he sits beside his own Kathleen,
With her darling on his knee.

FIRST-DAY THOUGHTS.

In calm and cool and silence, once again
I find my old accustomed place among
My brethren, where, perchance, no
human tongue
Shall utter words; where never
hymn is sung,
Nor deep-toned organ blown, nor
censer swung,
Nor dim light falling through the pic-
tured pane !
There, syllabled by silence, let me hear
The still small voice which reached
the prophet's ear;
Read in my heart a still diviner law
Than Israel's leader on his tables saw !
There let me strive with each besetting
sin,
Recall my wandering fancies, and
restrain
The sore disquiet of a restless brain;
And, as the path of duty is made
plain,
May grace be given that I may walk
therein,
Not like the hireling, for his selfish
gain,
With backward glances and reluctant
tread,
Making a merit of his coward dread,—
But, cheerful, in the light around me
thrown,
Walking as one to pleasant service
led;
Doing God's will as if it were my
own,
Yet trusting not in mine, but in his
strength alone !

KOSSUTH.²⁰

Type of two mighty continents!—
combining
The strength of Europe with the
warmth and glow
Of Asian song and prophecy, — the
shining
Of Orient splendors over Northern
snow !
Who shall receive him? Who, un-
blushing, speak
Welcome to him, who, while he strove
to break
The Austrian yoke from Magyar necks,
smote off
At the same blow the fetters of the
serf, —
Rearing the altar of his Father-land
On the firm base of freedom, and
thereby
Lifting to Heaven a patriot's stainless
hand,
Mocked not the God of Justice with
a lie !
Who shall be Freedom's mouth-piece?
Who shall give
Her welcoming cheer to the great fugi-
tive?
Not he who, all her sacred trusts be-
traying,
Is scourging back to slavery's hell of
pain
The swarthy Kossuths of our land
again !
Not he whose utterance now from lips
designed
The bugle-march of Liberty to wind,
And call her hosts beneath the break-
ing light, —
The keen reveille of her morn of
fight, —
Is but the hoarse note of the blood-
hound's baying,
The wolf's long howl behind the bond-
man's flight !
O for the tongue of him who lies at
rest
In Quincy's shade of patrimonial
trees, —
Last of the Puritan tribunes and the
best, —
To lend a voice to Freedom's sym-
pathies,

And hail the coming of the noblest
guest
The Old World's wrong has given the
New World of the West !

TO MY OLD SCHOOLMASTER.

AN EPISTLE NOT AFTER THE MANNER OF HORACE.

OLD friend, kind friend ! lightly down
Drop time's snow-flakes on thy crown !
Never be thy shadow less,
Never fail thy cheerfulness ;
Care, that kills the cat, may plough
Wrinkles in the miser's brow,
Deepen envy's spiteful frown,
Draw the mouths of bigots down,
Plague ambition's dream, and sit
Heavy on the hypocrite,
Haunt the rich man's door, and ride
In the gilded coach of pride ; —
Let the fiend pass ! — what can he
Find to do with such as thee ?
Seldom comes that evil guest
Where the conscience lies at rest,
And brown health and quiet wit
Smiling on the threshold sit.

I, the urchin unto whom,
In that smoked and dingy room,
Where the district gave thee rule
O'er its ragged winter school,
Thou didst teach the mysteries
Of those weary A B C's, —
Where, to fill the every pause
Of thy wise and learned saws,
Through the cracked and crazy wall
Came the cradle-rock and squall,
And the goodman's voice, at strife
With his shrill and tipsy wife, —
Luring us by stories old,
With a comic unction told,
More than by the eloquence
Of terse birchen arguments
(Doubtful gain, I fear), to look
With complacence on a book ! —
Where the genial pedagogue
Half forgot his rogues to flog,
Citing tale or apologue,
Wise and merry in its drift
As old Phædrus' twofold gift,

Had the little rebels known it,
Risum et prudentiam monet !
I, — the man of middle years,
In whose sable locks appears
Many a warning fleck of gray, —
Looking back to that far day,
And thy primal lessons, feel
Grateful smiles my lips unseal,
As, remembering thee, I blend
Olden teacher, present friend,
Wise with antiquarian search,
In the scrolls of State and Church ;
Named on history's title-page,
Parish-clerk and justice sage ;
For the ferule's wholesome awe
Wielding now the sword of law.

Threshing Time's neglected sheaves,
Gathering up the scattered leaves
Which the wrinkled sibyl cast
Careless from her as she passed, —
Twofold citizen art thou,
Freeman of the past and now.
He who bore thy name of old
Midway in the heavens did hold
Over Gibeon moon and sun ;
Thou hast bidden them backward run ;
Of to-day the present ray
Flinging over yesterday !

Let the busy ones deride
What I deem of right thy pride ;
Let the fools their tread-mills grind,
Look not forward nor behind,
Shuffle in and wriggle out,
Veer with every breeze about,
Turning like a windmill sail,
Or a dog that seeks his tail ;
Let them laugh to see thee fast
Tabernacled in the Past,
Working out with eye and lip,
Riddles of old penmanship,
Patient as Belzoni there
Sorting out, with loving care,
Mummies of dead questions stripped
From their sevenfold manuscript !

Dabbling, in their noisy way,
In the puddles of to-day,
Little know they of that vast
Solemn ocean of the past,
On whose margin, wreck-bespread,
Thou art walking with the dead,

Questioning the stranded years,
Waking smiles, by turns, and tears,
As thou callest up again
Shapes the dust has long o'erlain,—
Fair-haired woman, bearded man,
Cavalier and Puritan ;
In an age whose eager view
Seeks but present things, and new,
Mad for party, sect, and gold,
Teaching reverence for the old.

On that shore, with fowler's tact,
Coolly bagging fact on fact,
Naught amiss to thee can float,
Tale, or song, or anecdote ;
Village gossip, centuries old,
Scandals by our grandams told,
What the pilgrim's table spread,
Where he lived, and whom he wed,
Long-drawn bill of wine and beer
For his ordination cheer,
Or the flip that wellnigh made
Glad his funeral cavalcade ;
Weary prose, and poet's lines,
Flavored by their age, like wines,
Eulogistic of some quaint,
Doubtful, puritanic saint ;
Lays that quickened husking jigs,
Jests that shook grave periwigs,
When the parson had his jokes
And his glass, like other folks ;
Sermons that, for mortal hours,
Taxed our fathers' vital powers,
As the long nineteenthlies poured
Downward from the sounding-board,
And, for fire of Pentecost,
Touched their beards December's frost.

Time is hastening on, and we
What our fathers are shall be, —
Shadow-shapes of memory !
Joined to that vast multitude
Where the great are but the good,
And the mind of strength shall prove
Weaker than the heart of love ;
Pride of graybeard wisdom less
Than the infant's guilelessness,
And his song of sorrow more
Than the crown the Psalmist wore !
Who shall then, with pious zeal,
At our moss-grown thresholds kneel,
From a stained and stony page
Reading to a careless age,

With a patient eye like thine,
Prosing tale and limping line,
Names and words the hoary rime
Of the Past has made sublime ?
Who shall work for us as well
The antiquarian's miracle ?
Who to seeming life recall
Teacher grave and pupil small ?
Who shall give to thee and me
Freeholds in futurity ?

Well, whatever lot be mine,
Long and happy days be thine,
Ere thy full and honored age
Dates of time its latest page !
Squire for master, State for school,
Wisely lenient, live and rule ;
Over grown-up knave and rogue
Play the watchful pedagogue ;
Or, while pleasure smiles on duty,
At the call of youth and beauty,
Speak for them the spell of law
Which shall bar and bolt withdraw,
And the flaming sword remove
From the Paradise of Love.
Still, with undimmed eyesight, pore
Ancient tome and record o'er ;
Still thy week-day lyrics croon,
Pitch in church the Sunday tune,
Showing something, in thy part,
Of the old Puritanic art,
Singer after Sternhold's heart !
In thy pew, for many a year,
Homilies from Oldbug hear,⁶⁰
Who to wit like that of South,
And the Syrian's golden mouth,
Doth the homely pathos add
Which the pilgrim preachers had ;
Breaking, like a child at play,
Gilded idols of the day,
Cant of knave and pomp of fool
Tossing with his ridicule,
Yet, in earnest or in jest,
Ever keeping truth abreast.
And, when thou art called, at last,
To thy townsmen of the past,
Not as stranger shalt thou come ;
Thou shalt find thyself at home !
With the little and the big,
Woollen cap and periwig,
Madam in her high-laced ruff,
Goody in her home-made stuff, —
Wise and simple, rich and poor,
Thou hast known them all before !

THE PANORAMA,
AND
OTHER POEMS.

1856.

"A ! fredome is a nobill thing !
Fredome mayse man to haif' liking.
Fredome all solace to man giffis ;
He levys at ese that frely levys !
A nobil hart may haif' nane ese
Na ellys nocht that may him plesse
Gyff Fredome failythe."

ARCHDEACON BARBOUR.



THE PANORAMA.

THROUGH the long hall the shuttered windows shed
A dubious light on every upturned head, —
On locks like those of Absalom the fair,
On the bald apex ringed with scanty hair,
On blank indifference and on curious stare ;
On the pale Showman reading from his stage
The hieroglyphics of that facial page :
Half sad, half scornful, listening to the bruit
Of restless cane-tap and impatient foot,
And the shrill call, across the general din,
“ Roll up your curtain ! Let the show begin ! ”

At length a murmur like the winds that break
Into green waves the prairie’s grassy lake,
Deepened and swelled to music clear and loud,
And, as the west-wind lift’s a summer cloud,
The curtain rose, disclosing wide and far
A green land stretching to the evening star,
Fair rivers, skirted by primeval trees
And flowers hummed over by the desert bees,
Marked by tall bluffs whose slopes of greenness show
Fantastic outcrops of the rock below,—
The slow result of patient Nature’s pains,
And plastic fingering of her sun and rains, —

Arch, tower, and gate, grotesquely windowed hall,
And long escarpment of half-crumbled wall,
Huger than those which, from steep hills of vine,
Stare through their loopholes on the travelled Rhine ;
Suggesting vaguely to the gazer’s mind A fancy, idle as the prairie wind,
Of the land’s dwellers in an age un-guessed, —
The unsung Jotuns of the mystic West.

Beyond, the prairie’s sea-like swells surpass
The Tartar’s marvels of his Land of Grass,
Vast as the sky against whose sunset shores
Wave after wave the billowy greenness pours ;
And, onward still, like islands in that main
Loom the rough peaks of many a mountain chain,
Whence east and west a thousand waters run
From winter lingering under summer’s sun.
And, still beyond, long lines of foam and sand
Tell where Pacific rolls his waves a-land,
From many a wide-lapped port and land-locked bay,
Opening with thunderous pomp the world’s highway
To Indian isles of spice, and marts of far Cathay.

"Such," said the Showman, as the curtain fell,
 "Is the new Canaan of our Israel,—
 The land of promise to the swarming North,
 Which, hive-like, sends its annual surplus forth,
 To the poor Southron on his worn-out soil,
 Scathed by the curses of unnatural toil ;
 To Europe's allies seeking home and rest,
 And the lark nomads of the wandering West,
 Who, asking neither, in their love of change
 And the free bison's amplitude of range,
 Rear the log hut, for present shelter meant,
 Not future comfort, like an Arab's tent."

Then spake a shrewd on - looker,
 "Sir," said he,
 "I like your picture, but I fain would see
 A sketch of what your promised land will be
 When, with electric nerve, and fiery-brained,
 With Nature's forces to its chariot chained,
 The future grasping, by the past obeyed,
 The twentieth century rounds a new decade."

Then said the Showman, sadly :
 "He who grieves
 Over the scattering of the sibyl's leaves
 Unwisely mourns. Suffice it, that we know
 What needs must ripen from the seed we sow ;
 That present time is but the mould wherein
 We cast the shapes of holiness and sin.
 A painful watcher of the passing hour,
 Its lust of gold, its strife for place and power ;
 Its lack of manhood, honor, reverence, truth,
 Wise-thoughted age, and generous-hearted youth ;
 Nor yet unmindful of each better sign,—
 The low, far lights, which on th' horizon shine,

Like those which sometimes tremble on the rim
 Of clouded skies when day is closing dim,
 Flashing athwart the purple spears of rain
 The hope of sunshine on the hills again :—
 I need no prophet's word, nor shapes that pass
 Like clouding shadows o'er a magic glass ;
 For now, as ever, passionless and cold,
 Doth the dread angel of the future hold
 Evil and good before us, with no voice
 Or warning look to guide us in our choice :
 With spectral hands outreaching through the gloom
 The shadowy contrasts of the coming doom.
 Transferred from these, it now remains to give
 The sun and shade of Fate's alternative."

Then, with a burst of music, touching all
 The keys of thrifty life, — the mill-stream's fall,
 The engine's pant along its quivering rails,
 The anvil's ring, the measured beat of flails,
 The sweep of scythes, the reaper's whistled tune,
 Answering the summons of the bells of noon,
 The woodman's hail along the river shores,
 The steamboat's signal, and the dip of oars, —
 Slowly the curtain rose from off a land Fair as God's garden. Broad on either hand
 The golden wheat-fields glimmered in the sun,
 And the tall maize its yellow tassels spun.
 Smooth highways set with hedge-rows living green,
 With steeped towns through shaded vistas seen,
 The school-house murmuring with its hive-like swarm,

The brook-bank whitening in the grist-mill's storm,
The painted farm-house shining through the leaves
Of fruited orchards bending at its eaves,
Where live again, around the Western hearth,
The homely old-time virtues of the North :
Where the blithe housewife rises with the day,
And well-paid labor counts his task a play.
And, grateful tokens of a Bible free,
And the free Gospel of Humanity,
Of diverse sects and differing names the shrines,
One in their faith, whate'er their outward signs,
Like varying strophes of the same sweet hymn
From many a prairie's swell and river's brim,
A thousand church-spires sanctify the air
Of the calm Sabbath, with their sign of prayer.

Like sudden nightfall over bloom and green
The curtain dropped : and, momently, between
The clank of fetter and the crack of thong,
Half sob, half laughter, music swept along.—
A strange refrain, whose idle words and low,
Like drunken mourners, kept the time of woe :
As if the revellers at a masquerade Heard in the distance funeral marches played.
Such music, dashing all his smiles with tears,
The thoughtful voyager on Ponchartrain hears,
Where, through the noonday dusk of wooded shores
The negro boatman, singing to his oars,
With a wild pathos borrowed of his wrong
Redeems the jargon of his senseless song.

"Look," said the Showman, sternly, as he rolled His curtain upward ; "Fate's reverse behold !"

A village straggling in loose disarray Of vulgar newness, premature decay ; A tavern, crazy with its whiskey brawls, With "*Slaves at Auction!*" garnishing its walls.
Without, surrounded by a motley crowd, The shrewd-eyed salesman, garrulous and loud,
A squire or colonel in his pride of place, Known at free fights, the caucus, and the race,
Prompt to proclaim his honor without blot,
And silence doubters with a ten-pace shot,
Mingling the negro-driving bully's rant With pious phrase and democratic cant, Yet never scrupling, with a filthy jest, To sell the infant from its mother's breast,
Break through all ties of wedlock, home, and kin,
Yield shrinking girlhood up to gray-beard sin ;
Sell all the virtues with his human stock, The Christian graces on his auction-block,
And coolly count on shrewdest bargains driven
In hearts regenerate, and in souls forgiven !

Look once again ! The moving canvas shows
A slave plantation's slovenly repose, Where, in rude cabins rotting midst their weeds,
The human chattel eats, and sleeps, and breeds ;
And, held a brute, in practice, as in law, Becomes in fact the thing he's taken for. There, early summoned to the hemp and corn,
The nursing mother leaves her child new-born ;
There haggard sickness, weak and deathly faint, Crawls to his task, and fears to make complaint ;

And sad-eyed Rachels, childless in decay,
Weep for their lost ones sold and torn away!
Of ampler size the master's dwelling stands,
In shabby keeping with his half-tilled lands,—
The gates unhinged, the yard with weeds unclean,
The cracked veranda with a tipsy lean.
Without, loose-scattered like a wreck adrift,
Signs of misrule and tokens of unthrift;
Within, profusion to discomfort joined,
The listless body and the vacant mind;
The fear, the hate, the theft and falsehood, born
In menial hearts of toil, and stripes, and scorn!
There, all the vices, which, like birds obscene,
Batten on slavery loathsome and unclean,
From the foul kitchen to the parlor rise,
Pollute the nursery where the child-heir lies,
Taint infant lips beyond all after cure,
With the fell poison of a breast impure;
Touch boyhood's passions with the breath of flame,
From girlhood's instincts steal the blush of shame.
So swells, from low to high, from weak to strong,
The tragic chorus of the baleful wrong;
Guilty or guiltless, all within its range
Feel the blind justice of its sure revenge.

Still scenes like these the moving chart reveals.
Up the long western steppes the blighting steals;
Down the Pacific slope the evil Fate
Glides like a shadow to the Golden Gate:
From sea to sea the drear eclipse is thrown,
From sea to sea the *Mauvaises Terres*
have grown,
A belt of curses on the New World's zone!

The curtain fell. All drew a freer breath,

As men are wont to do when mournful death
Is covered from their sight. The Showman stood
With drooping brow in sorrow's attitude
One moment, then with sudden gesture shook
His loose hair back, and with the air and look
Of one who felt, beyond the narrow stage
And listening group, the presence of the age,
And heard the footsteps of the things to be,
Poured out his soul in earnest words and free.

"O friends!" he said, "in this poor trick of paint
You see the semblance, incomplete and faint,
Of the two-fronted Future, which, to-day,
Stands dim and silent, waiting in your way.
To-day, your servant, subject to your will;
To-morrow, master, or for good or ill.
If the dark face of Slavery on you turns,
If the mad curse its paper barrier spurns,
If the world granary of the West is made
The last foul market of the slaver's trade,
Why rail at fate? The mischief is your own.
Why hate your neighbor? Blame yourselves alone!

"Men of the North! The South you charge with wrong
Is weak and poor, while you are rich and strong.
If questions, — idle and absurd as those
The old-time monks and Paduan doctors chose, —
Mere ghosts of questions, tariffs, and dead banks,
And scarecrow pontiffs, never broke your ranks,
Your thews united could, at once, roll back
The jostled nation to its primal track.
Nay, were you simply steadfast, manly, just,
True to the faith your fathers left in trust,

If stainless honor outweighed in your scale
 A codfish quintal or a factory bale,
 Full many a noble heart, (and such remain
 In all the South, like Lot in Siddim's plain,
 Who watch and wait, and from the wrong's control
 Keep white and pure their chastity of soul,) Now sick to loathing of your weak complaints,
 Your tricks as sinners, and your prayers as saints,
 Would half-way meet the frankness of your tone,
 And feel their pulses beating with your own.

"The North! the South! no geographic line
 Can fix the boundary or the point define,
 Since each with each so closely inter-blends,
 Where Slavery rises, and where Freedom ends.
 Beneath your rocks the roots, far-reaching, hide
 Of the fell Upas on the Southern side;
 The tree whose branches in your north winds wave
 Dropped its young blossoms on Mount Vernon's grave;
 The nursing growth of Monticello's crest
 Is now the glory of the free Northwest;
 To the wise maxims of her olden school Virginia listened from thy lips, Rantoul;
 Seward's words of power, and Sumner's fresh renown,
 Flow from the pen that Jefferson laid down!
 And when, at length, her years of madness o'er,
 Like the crowned grazer on Euphrates' shore,
 From her long lapse to savagery, her mouth
 Bitter with baneful herbage, turns the South,
 Resumes her old attire, and seeks to smooth

Her unkempt tresses at the glass of truth,
 Hereary faith shall find a tongue again, New Wythes and Pinckneys swell that old refrain,
 Her sons with yours renew the ancient pact,
 The myth of Union prove at last a fact! Then, if one murmur mars the wide content,
 Some Northern lip will drawl the last dissent,
 Some Union-saving patriot of your own Lament to find his occupation gone.

"Grant that the North's insulted, scorned, betrayed,
 O'erreached in bargains with her neighbor made,
 When selfish thrift and party held the scales
 For peddling dicker, not for honest sales,—
 Whom shall we strike? Who most deserves our blame?
 The braggart Southron, open in his aim,
 And bold as wicked, crashing straight through all
 That bars his purpose, like a cannon-ball?
 Or the mean traitor, breathing northern air,
 With nasal speech and puritanic hair,
 Whose cant the loss of principle survives,
 As the mud-turtle e'en its head out-lives;
 Who, caught, chin-buried in some foul offence,
 Puts on a look of injured innocence,
 And consecrates his baseness to the cause
 Of constitution, union, and the laws?

"Praise to the place-man who can hold aloof
 His still unpurchased manhood, office-proof;
 Who on his round of duty walks erect,
 And leaves it only rich in self-respect,—
 As MORE maintained his virtue's lofty port

In the Eighth Henry's base and bloody court.
 But, if exceptions here and there are found,
 Who tread thus safely on enchanted ground,
 The normal type, the fitting symbol still
 Of those who fatten at the public mill,
 Is the chained dog beside his master's door,
 Or CIRCE's victim, feeding on all four !

" Give me the heroes who, at tuck of drum,
 Salute thy staff, immortal Quattlebum !
 Or they who, doubly armed with vote and gun,
 Following thy lead, illustrious Atchison,
 Their drunken franchise shift from scene to scene.
 As tile-beard Jourdan did his guillotine ! —
 Rather than him who, born beneath our skies,
 To Slavery's hand its supplest tool supplies, —
 The party felon whose unblushing face
 Looks from the pillory of his bribe of place,
 And coolly makes a merit of disgrace, —
 Points to the footmarks of indignant scorn,
 Shows the deep scars of satire's tossing horn ;
 And passes to his credit side the sum
 Of all that makes a scoundrel's martyrdom !

" Bane of the North, its canker and its moth ! —
 These modern Esaus, bartering rights for broth !
 Taxing our justice, with their double claim,
 As fools for pity, and as knaves for blame ;
 Who, urged by party, sect, or trade, within
 The fell embrace of Slavery's sphere of sin,
 Part at the outset with their moral sense,
 The watchful angel set for Truth's defence ;

Confound all contrasts, good and ill;
 reverse
 The poles of life, its blessing and its curse ;
 And lose thenceforth from their perverted sight
 The eternal difference 'twixt the wrong and right ;
 To them the Law is but the iron span
 That girds the ankles of imbruted man ;
 To them the Gospel has no higher aim
 Than simple sanction of the master's claim,
 Dragged in the slime of Slavery's loathsome trail,
 Like Chalier's Bible at his ass's tail !

" Such are the men who, with instinctive dread,
 Whenever Freedom lifts her drooping head,
 Make prophet-tripods of their office-stools,
 And scare the nurseries and the village schools
 With dire presage of ruin grim and great,
 A broken Union and a founder'd State !
 Such are the patriots, self-bound to the stake
 Of office, martyrs for their country's sake :
 Who fill themselves the hungry jaws of Fate,
 And by their loss of manhood save the State.
 In the wide gulf themselves like Curtius throw,
 And test the virtues of cohesive dough :
 As tropic monkeys, linking heads and tails,
 Bridge o'er some torrent of Ecuador's vales !

" Such are the men who in your churches rave
 To swearing-point, at mention of the slave,
 When some poor parson, haply unaware,
 Stammers of freedom in his timid prayers ;
 Who, if some foot-sore negro through the town

Steals northward, volunteer to hunt him down.
 Or, if some neighbor, flying from disease,
 Courts the mild balsam of the Southern breeze,
 With hue and cry pursue him on his track,
 And write *Free-soiler* on the poor man's back.
 Such are the men who leave the pedler's cart,
 While faring South, to learn the driver's art,
 Or, in white neckcloth, soothe with pious aim
 The graceful sorrows of some languid dame,
 Who, from the wreck of her bereavement, saves
 The double charm of widowhood and slaves! —
 Pliant and apt, they lose no chance to show
 To what base depths apostasy can go;
 Outdo the natives in their readiness
 To roast a negro, or to mob a press;
 Poise a tarred schoolmate on the lynch-er's rail,
 Or make a bonfire of their birthplace mail!

" So some poor wretch, whose lips no longer bear
 The sacred burden of his mother's prayer,
 By fear impelled, or lust of gold enticed,
 Turns to the Crescent from the Cross of Christ,
 And, over-acting in superfluous zeal,
 Crawls prostrate where the faithful only kneel,
 Out-howl's the Dervish, hugs his rags to court
 The squalid Santon's sanctity of dirt;
 And, when beneath the city gateway's span
 Files slow and long the Meccan caravan,
 And through its midst, pursued by Islam's prayers,
 The prophet's Word some favored camel bears,

The marked apostate has his place assigned
 The Koran-bearer's sacred rump behind,
 With brush and pitcher following, grave and mute,
 In meek attendance on the holy brute!

" Men of the North! beneath your very eyes,
 By hearth and home, your real danger lies.
 Still day by day some hold of freedom falls,
 Through home-bred traitors fed within its walls. —
 Men whom yourselves with vote and purse sustain,
 At posts of honor, influence, and gain;
 The right of Slavery to your sons to teach,
 And "South-side" Gospels in your pulpits preach,
 Transfix the Law to ancient freedom dear
 On the sharp point of her subverted spear,
 And imitate upon her cushion plump
 The mad Missourian lynching from his stump;
 Or, in your name, upon the Senate's floor
 Yield up to Slavery all it asks, and more;
 And, ere your dull eyes open to the cheat,
 Sell your old homestead underneath your feet!
 While such as these your loftiest outlooks hold,
 While truth and conscience with your wares are sold,
 While grave-browed merchants band themselves to aid
 An annual man-hunt for their Southern trade,
 What moral power within your grasp remains
 To stay the mischief on Nebraska's plains? —
 High as the tides of generous impulse flow,
 As far rolls back the selfish under-tow:

And all your brave resolves, though
aimed as true
As the horse-pistol Balmawhapple drew,
To Slavery's bastions lend as slight a
shock
As the poor trooper's shot to Stirling
rock !

" Yet, while the need of Freedom's
cause demands
The earnest efforts of your hearts and
hands,
Urged by all motives that can prompt
the heart
To prayer and toil and manhood's man-
fest part ;
Though to the soul's deep tocsin Nature
joins
The warning whisper of her Orphic
pines,
The north-wind's anger, and the south-
wind's sigh,
The midnight sword-dance of the north-
ern sky,
And, to the ear that bends above the
sod
Of the green grave-mounds in the
Fields of God,
In low, deep murmurs of rebuke or
cheer,
The land's dead fathers speak their
hope or fear,
Yet let not Passion wrest from Reason's
hand
The guiding rein and symbol of com-
mand.
Blame not the caution proffering to your
zeal
A well-meant drag upon its hurrying
wheel ;
Nor chide the man whose honest doubt
extends
To the means only, not the righteous
ends ;
Nor fail to weigh the scruples and the
fears
Of milder natures and serener years.
In the long strife with evil which began
With the first lapse of new-created man,
Wisely and well has Providence assigned
To each his part, — some forward, some
behind ;
And they, too, serve who temper and
restrain

The o'erwarm heart that sets on fire the
brain.
True to yourselves, feed Freedom's al-
tar-flame
With what you have; let others do the
same.
Spare timid doubters; set like flint
your face
Against the self-sold knaves of gain and
place :
Pity the weak; but with unsparing hand
Cast out the traitors who infest the
land, —
From bar, press, pulpit, cast them every-
where,
By dint of fasting, if you fail by prayer.
And in their place bring men of antique
mould,
Like the grave fathers of your Age of
Gold, —
Statesmen like those who sought the
primal fount
Of righteous law, the Sermon on the
Mount ;
Lawyers who prize, like Quincy, (to our
day
Still spared, Heaven bless him !) honor
more than pay,
And Christian jurists, starry-pure, like
Jay ;
Preachers like Woolman, or like them
who bore
The faith of Wesley to our Western shore,
And held no convert genuine till he
broke
Alike his servants' and the Devil's yoke ;
And priests like him who Newport's
market trod,
And o'er its slave-ships shook the bolts
of God !
So shall your power, with a wise pru-
dence used,
Strong but forbearing, firm but not
abused,
In kindly keeping with the good of all,
The nobler maxims of the past recall,
Her natural home-born right to Free-
dom give,
And leave her soe his robber-right, — to
live.
Live, as the snake does in his noisome
fen !
Live, as the wolf does in his bone-strews
den !

Live, clothed with cursing like a robe of flame,
The focal point of million-fingered shame !
Live, till the Southron, who, with all his faults,
Has manly instincts, in his pride revolts,
Dashes from off him, midst the glad world's cheers,
The hideous nightmare of his dream of years,
And lifts, self-prompted, with his own right hand,
The vile encumbrance from his glorious land !

" So, wheresoe'er our destiny sends forth
Its widening circles to the South or North,
Where'er our banner flaunts beneath the stars
Its mimic splendors and its cloudlike bars,
There shall Free Labor's hardy children stand
The equal sovereigns of a slaveless land.
And when at last the hunted bison tires,
And dies o'er taken by the squatter's fires ;
And westward, wave on wave, the living flood
Breaks on the snow-line of majestic Hood :
And lonely Shasta listening hears the tread
Of Europe's fair-haired children, Hesper-led ;
And, gazing downward through his hoar-locks, sees
The tawny Asian climb his giant knees,
The Eastern sea shall hush his waves to hear
Pacific's surf-beat answer Freedom's cheer,
And one long rolling fire of triumph run
Between the sunrise and the sunset gun ! "

My task is done. The Showman and his show,

Themselves but shadows, into shadows go ;
And, if no song of idlesse I have sung,
Nor tints of beauty on the canvas flung, —
If the harsh numbers grate on tender ears,
And the rough picture overwrought appears, —
With deeper coloring, with a sterner blast,
Before my soul's voice and vision passed,
Such as might Milton's jarring trump require,
Or glooms of Dante fringed with lurid fire.
O, not of choice, for themes of public wrong
I leave the green and pleasant paths of song, —
The mild, sweet words which soften and adorn,
For griding taunt and bitter laugh of scorn.
More dear to me some song of private worth,
Some homely idyl of my native North,
Some summer pastoral of her inland vales
Or, grim and weird, her winter fire-side tales
Haunted by ghosts of unreturning sails, —
Lost barks at parting hung from stem to helm
With prayers of love like dreams on Virgil's elm.
Nor private grief nor malice holds my pen ;
I owe but kindness to my fellow-men ;
And, South or North, wherever hearts of prayer
Their woes and weakness to our Father bear,
Wherever fruits of Christian love are found
In holy lives, to me is holy ground.
But the time passes. It were vain to crave
A late indulgence. What I had I gave.
Forget the poet, but his warning heed,
And shame his poor word with your nobler deed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SUMMER BY THE LAKESIDE.

I. NOON.

WHITE clouds, whose shadows haunt
the deep,
Light mists, whose soft embraces keep
The sunahine on the hills asleep !

O isles of calm ! — O dark, still wood !
And stiller skies that overbrood
Your rest with deeper quietude !

O shapes and hues, dim beckoning,
through
Yon mountain gaps, my longing view
Beyond the purple and the blue,

To stiller sea and greener land,
And softer lights and airs more bland,
And skies, — the hollow of God's hand !

Transfused through you, O mountain
friends !
With mine your solemn spirit blends,
And life no more hath separate ends.

I read each misty mountain sign,
I know the voice of wave and pine,
And I am yours, and ye are mine.

Life's burdens fall, its discords cease,
I lapse into the glad release
Of nature's own exceeding peace.

O, welcome calm of heart and mind !
As falls yon fir-tree's loosened rind
To 'leave a tenderer growth behind,

So fall the weary years away ;
A child again, my head I lay
Upon the lap of this sweet day.

This western wind hath Lethean powers,
Yon noonday cloud nepenthe showers,
The lake is white with lotus-flowers !

Even Duty's voice is faint and low,
And slumberous Conscience, waking
slow,
Forgets her blotted scroll to show.

The Shadow which pursues us all,
Whose ever-nearing steps appall,
Whose voice we hear behind us call, —

That Shadow blends with mountain
gray,
It speaks but what the lightwaves say, —
Death walks apart from Fear to-day !

Rocked on her breast, these pines and I
Alike on Nature's love rely :
And equal seems to live or die.

Assured that He whose presence fills
With light the spaces of these hills
No evil to his creatures wills,

The simple faith remains, that He
Will do, whatever that may be,
The best alike for man and tree.

What mosses over one shall grow,
What light and life the other know,
Unanxious, leaving Him to show.

II. EVENING.

Yon mountain's side is black with night,
While, broad-orbed, o'er its gleaming
crown

The moon, slow-rounding into sight,
On the hushed inland sea looks down.

How start to light the clustering isles,
Each silver-hemmed ! How sharply
show

The shadows of their rocky piles,
And tree-tops in the wave below !

How far and strange the mountains
seem,
Dim-looming through the pale, still
light !

The vague, vast grouping of a dream,
They stretch into the solemn night.

Beneath, lake, wood, and peopled vale,
Hushed by that presence grand and
grave,

Are silent, save the cricket's wail,
And low response of leaf and wave.

Fair scenes! whereto the Day and Night
Make rival love, I leave ye soon,
What time before the eastern light
The pale ghost of the setting moon

Shall hide behind yon rocky spines,
And the young archer, Morn, shall
break
His arrows on the mountain pines,
And, golden-sandalled, walk the lake!

Farewell! around this smiling bay
Gay-hearted Health, and Life in
bloom,
With lighter steps than mine, may
stray
In radiant summers yet to come.

But none shall more regretful leave
These waters and these hills than I :
Or, distant, fonder dream how eve
Or dawn is painting wave and sky ;

How rising moons shine sad and mild
On wooded isle and silvering bay ;
Or setting suns beyond the piled
And purple mountains lead the day ;

Nor laughing girl, nor bearding boy,
Nor full-puised manhood, lingering
here,
Shall add, to life's abounding joy,
The charmed repose to suffering dear.

Still waits kind Nature to impart
Her choicest gifts to such as gain
An entrance to her loving heart
Through the sharp discipline of pain.

Forever from the Hand that takes
One blessing from us others fall ;
And, soon or late, our Father makes
His perfect recompence to all !

O, watched by Silence and the Night,
And folded in the strong embrace
Of the great mountains, with the light
Of the sweet heavens upon thy face,

Lake of the Northland! keep thy dower
Of beauty still, and while above
Thy solemn mountains speak of power.
Be thou the mirror of God's love.

THE HERMIT OF THE THEBAID.

O STRONG, upwelling prayers of faith,
From inmost founts of life ye start,—
The spirit's pulse, the vital breath
Of soul and heart !

From pastoral toil, from traffic's din,
Alone, in crowds, at home, abroad,
Unheard of man, ye enter in
The ear of God.

Ye brook no forced and measured tasks,
Nor weary rote, nor formal chains ;
The simple heart, that freely asks
In love, obtains.

For man the living temple is :
The mercy-seat and cherubim,
And all the holy mysteries,
He bears with him.

And most avails the prayer of love,
Which, wordless, shapes itself in
deeds,
And wearies Heaven for naught above
Our common needs.

Which brings to God's all-perfect will
That trust of his undoubting child
Whereby all seeming good and ill
Are reconciled.

And, seeking not for special signs
Of favor, is content to fall
Within the providence which shines
And rains on all.

Alone, the Thebaid hermit leaned
At noontime o'er the sacred word.
Was it an angel or a fiend
Whose voice he heard ?

It broke the desert's hush of awe,
A human utterance, sweet and mild ;
And, looking up, the hermit saw
A little child.

A child, with wonder-widened eyes,
O'erawed and troubled by the sight
Of hot, red sands, and brazen skies,
And anchorite.

"What dost thou here, poor man? No shade
Of cool, green doums, nor grass, nor well,
Nor corn, nor vines." The hermit said:
"With God I dwell.

"Alone with Him in this great calm,
I live not by the outward sense;
My Nile his love, my sheltering palm
His providence."

The child gazed round him. "Does God live
Here only? — where the desert's rim
Is green with corn, at morn and eve,
We pray to Him.

"My brother tills beside the Nile
His little field: beneath the leaves
My sisters sit and spin the while,
My mother weaves.

"And when the millet's ripe heads fall,
And all the bean-field hangs in pod,
My mother smiles, and says that all
Are gifts from God.

"And when to share our evening meal,
She calls the stranger at the door,
She says God fills the hands that deal
Food to the poor."

Adown the hermit's wasted cheeks
Glistened the flow of human tears;
"Dear Lord!" he said, "thy angel
speaks,
Thy servant hears."

Within his arms the child he took,
And thought of home and life with
men;
And all his pilgrim feet forsook
Returned again.

The palmy shadows cool and long,
The eyes that smiled through lavish
locks,
Home's cradle-hymn and harvest-song,
And bleat of flocks.

"O child!" he said, "thou teachest me
There is no place where God is not;

That love will make, where'er it be,
A holy spot."

He rose from off the desert sand,
And, leaning on his staff of thorn,
Went, with the young child, hand-in-hand,
Like night with morn.

They crossed the desert's burning line,
And heard the palm-tree's rustling fan,
The Nile-bird's cry, the low of kine,
And voice of man.

Unquestioning, his childish guide
He followed as the small hand led
To where a woman, gentle-eyed,
Her distaff fed.

She rose, she clasped her truant boy,
She thanked the stranger with her eyes.

The hermit gazed in doubt and joy
And dumb surprise.

And lo! — with sudden warmth and light
A tender memory thrilled his frame;
New-born, the world-lost anchorite
A man became.

"O sister of El Zara's race,
Behold me! — had we not one mother?"

She gazed into the stranger's face:—
"Thou art my brother?"

"O kin of blood! — Thy life of use
And patient trust is more than mine;
And wiser than the gray recluse
This child of thine.

"For, taught of him whom God hath sent,
That toil is praise, and love is prayer.
I come, life's cares and pains content
With thee to share."

Even as his foot the threshold crossed,
The hermit's better life began;
Its holiest saint the Thebaid lost
And found a man!

BURNS.

ON RECEIVING A SPRIG OF HEATHER
IN BLOSSOM.

No more these simple flowers belong
To Scottish maid and lover ;
Sown in the common soil of song,
They bloom the wide world over.

In smiles and tears, in sun and showers,
The minstrel and the heather,
The deathless singer and the flowers
He sang of live together.

Wild heather-bells and Robert Burns !
The moorland flower and peasant !
Now, at their mention, memory turns
Her pages old and pleasant !

The gray sky wears again its gold
And purple of adorning,
And manhood's noonday shadows hold
The dews of boyhood's morning.

The dews that washed the dust and soil
From off the wings of pleasure,
The sky, that flecked the ground of toil
With golden threads of leisure.

I call to mind the summer day,
The early harvest mowing,
The sky with sun and clouds at play,
And flowers with breezes blowing.

I hear the blackbird in the corn,
The locust in the haying ;
And, like the fabled hunter's horn,
Old tunes my heart is playing.

How oft that day, with fond delay,
I sought the maple's shadow,
And sang with Burns the hours away,
Forgetful of the meadow !

Bees hummed, birds twittered, overhead
I heard the squirrels leaping,
The good dog listened while I read,
And wagged his tail in keeping.

I watched him while in sportive mood
I read "*The Two Dogs'* story,

And half believed he understood
The poet's allegory.

Sweet day, sweet songs ! — The golden
hours
Grew brighter for that singing,
From brook and bird and meadow
flowers
A dearer welcome bringing.

New light on home-seen Nature
beamed,
New glory over Woman ;
And daily life and duty seemed
No longer poor and common.

I woke to find the simple truth
Of fact and feeling better
Than all the dreams that held my youth
A still repining debtor :

That Nature gives her handmaid, Art,
The themes of sweet discoursing ;
The tender idyls of the heart
In every tongue rehearsing.

Why dream of lands of gold and pearl,
Of loving knight and lady,
When farmer boy and barefoot girl
Were wandering there already ?

I saw through all familiar things
The romance underlying :
The joys and griefs that plume the wings
Of Fancy skyward flying.

I saw the same blithe day return,
The same sweet fall of even,
That rose on wooded Craigie-burn,
And sank on crystal Devon.

I matched with Scotland's heathery hills
The sweet-brier and the clover ;
With Ayr and Doon, my native rills,
Their wood-hymns chanting over.

O'er rank and pomp, as he had seen,
I saw the Man uprising ;
No longer common or unclean,
The child of God's baptizing !

With clearer eyes I saw the worth
Of life among the lowly ;
The Bible at his Cotter's hearth
Had made my own more holy. :

And if at times an evil strain,
To lawless love appealing,
Broke in upon the sweet refrain
Of pure and healthful feeling,

It died upon the eye and ear,
No inward answer gaining :
No heart had I to see or hear
The discord and the staining.

Let those who never erred forget
His worth, in vain bewailings ;
Sweet Soul of Song ! — I own my debt
Uncancelled by his failings !

Lament who will the ribald line
Which tells his lapse from duty,
How kissed the maddening lips of wine
Or wanton ones of beauty ;

But think, while falls that shade between
The erring one and Heaven,
That he who loved like Magdalén,
Like her may be forgiven.

Not his the song whose thunderous
chime
Eternal echoes render, —
The mournful Tuscan's haunted rhyme,
And Milton's starry splendor !

But who his human heart has laid
To Nature's bosom nearer ?
Who sweetened toil like him, or paid
To love a tribute dearer ?

Through all his tuneful art, how strong
The human feeling gushes !
The very moonlight of his song
Is warm with smiles and blushes !

Give lettered pomp to teeth of Time,
So " Bonnie Doon " but tarry ;
Blot out the Epic's stately rhyme,
But spare his Highland Mary !

WILLIAM FORSTER.⁶¹

THE years are many since his hand
Was laid upon my head,
Too weak and young to understand
The serious words he said.

Yet often now the good man's look
Before me seems to swim,
As if some inward feeling took
The outward guise of him.

As if, in passion's heated war,
Or near temptation's charm,
Through him the low-voiced monitor
Forewarned me of the harm.

Stranger and pilgrim ! — from that day
Of meeting, first and last,
Wherever Duty's pathway lay,
His reverent steps have passed.

The poor to feed, the lost to seek,
To proffer life to death,
Hope to the erring, — to the weak
The strength of his own faith.

To plead the captive's right ; remove
The sting of hate from Law ;
And soften in the fire of love
The hardened steel of War.

He walked the dark world, in the mild,
Still guidance of the Light ;
In tearful tenderness a child,
A strong man in the right.

From what great perils, on his way,
He found, in prayer, release :
Through what abysmal shadows lay
His pathway unto peace,

God knoweth : we could only see
The tranquil strength he gained ;
The bondage lost in liberty,
The fear in love unfeigned.

And I, — my youthful fancies grown
The habit of the man,
Whose field of life by angels sown
The wilding vines o'erran, —

Low bowed in silent gratitude,
My manhood's heart enjoys
That reverence for the pure and good
Which blessed the dreaming boy's.

Still shines the light of holy lives
Like star-beams over doubt ;
Each sainted memory, Christlike, drives
Some dark possession out.

O friend ! O brother ! not in vain
Thy life so calm and true,
The silver dropping of the rain,
The fall of summer dew !

How many burdened hearts have prayed
Their lives like thine might be !
But more shall pray henceforth for aid
To lay them down like thee.

With weary hand, yet steadfast will,
In old age as in youth,
Thy Master found thee sowing still
The good seed of his truth.

As on thy task-field closed the day
In golden-skied decline,
His angel met thee on the way,
And lent his arm to thine.

Thy latest care for man, — thy last
Of earthly thought a prayer, —
O, who thy mantle, backward cast,
Is worthy now to wear ?

Methinks the mound which marks thy
bed
Might bless our land and save,
As rose, of old, to life the dead
Who touched the prophet's grave !

RANTOUL.²²

ONE day, along the electric wire
His manly word for Freedom sped :
We came next morn : that tongue of fire
Said only, " He who spake is dead ! "

Dead ! while his voice was living yet,
In echoes round the pillared dome !
Dead ! while his blotted page lay wet
With themes of state and loves of
home !

Dead ! in that crowning grace of time,
That triumph of life's zenith hour !
Dead ! while we watched his manhood's
prime
Break from the slow bud into flower !

Dead ! he so great, and strong, and
wise,
While the mean thousands yet drew
breath ;
How deepened, through that dread sur-
prise,
The mystery and the awe of death !

From the high place whereon our votes
Had borne him, clear, calm, earnest,
fell
His first words, like the prelude notes
Of some great anthem yet to swell.

We seemed to see our flag unfurled,
Our champion waiting in his place
For the last battle of the world, —
The Armageddon of the race.

Through him we hoped to speak the
word
Which wins the freedom of a land ;
And lift, for human right, the sword
Which dropped from Hampden's dy-
ing hand.

For he had sat at Sidney's feet,
And walked with Pym and Vane
apart ;
And, through the centuries, felt the beat
Of Freedom's march in Cromwell's
heart.

He knew the paths the worthies held,
Where England's best and wisest
trod ;
And, lingering, drank the springs that
welled
Beneath the touch of Milton's rod.

No wild enthusiast of the right,
Self-poised and clear, he showed al-
way
The coolness of his northern night,
The ripe repose of autumn's day.

His steps were slow, yet forward still
He pressed where others paused or
failed ;
The calm starclimb with constantwill,—
The restless meteor flashed and
paled !

Skilled in its subtlest wile, he knew
And owned the higher ends of Law;
Still rose majestic on his view
The awful Shape the schoolman saw.

Her home the heart of God ; her voice
The choral harmonies whereby
The stars, through all their spheres, re-
joice,
The rhythmic rule of earth and sky !

We saw his great powers misapplied
To poor ambitions ; yet, through all,
We saw him take the weaker side,
And right the wronged, and free the
thrall.

Now, looking o'er the frozen North
For one like him in word and act,
To call her old, free spirit forth,
And give her faith the life of fact, —

To break her party bonds of shame,
And labor with the zeal of him
To make the Democratic name
Of Liberty the synonyme, —

We sweep the land from hill to strand,
We seek the strong, the wise, the
brave,
And, sad of heart, return to stand
In silence by a new-made grave !

There, where his breezy hills of home
Look out upon his sail-white seas,
The sounds of winds and waters come,
And shape themselves to words like
these :

"Why, murmuring, mourn that he,
whose power
Was lent to Party over-long,
Heard the still whisper at the hour
He set his foot on Party wrong ?

"The human life that closed so well
No lapse of folly now can stain :
The lips whence Freedom's protest fell
No meaner thought can now profane.

"Mightier than living voice his grave
That lofty protest utters o'er ;
Through roaring wind and smiting wave
It speaks his hate of wrong once
more.

"Men of the North ! your weak regret
Is wasted here ; arise and pay
To freedom and to him your debt,
By following where he led the way !"

THE DREAM OF PIO NONO.

IT chanced, that while the pious
troops of France
Fought in the crusade Pio Nono
preached,
What time the holy Bourbons stayed
his hands
(The Hur and Aaron meet for such a
Moses),
Stretched forth from Naples towards
rebellious Rome
To bless the ministry of Oudinot,
And sanctify his iron homilies
And sharp persuasions of the bayonet,
That the great pontiff fell asleep, and
dreamed.

He stood by Lake Tiberias, in the
sun
Of the bright Orient ; and beheld the
lame,
The sick, and blind, kneel at the Ma-
ster's feet,
And rise up whole. And, sweetly over
all,
Dropping the ladder of their hymn of
praise
From heaven to earth, in silver rounds
of song,
He heard the blessed angels sing of
peace,
Good-will to man, and glory to the
Lord.

Then one, with feet unshod, and
leathern face
Hardened and darkened by fierce sum-
mer suns
And hot winds of the desert, closer
drew
His fisher's haick, and girded up his
loins,
And spake, as one who had authority :
"Come thou with me."

Lakeside and eastern sky
 And the sweet song of angels passed
 away,
 And, with a dream's alacrity of change,
 The priest, and the swart fisher by his
 side,
 Beheld the Eternal City lift its domes
 And solemn fances and monumental
 pomp
 Above the waste Campagna. On the
 hills
 The blaze of burning villas rose and fell,
 And momently the mortar's iron throat
 Roared from the trenches ; and, within
 the walls,
 Sharp crash of shells, low groans of hu-
 man pain,
 Shout, drum beat, and the clangling
 larum-bell,
 And tramp of hosts, sent up a mingled
 sound,
 Half wail and half defiance. As they
 passed
 The gate of San Pancrazio, human
 blood
 Flowed ankle-high about them, and
 dead men
 Choked the long street with gashed
 and gory piles, —
 A ghastly barricade of mangled flesh,
 From which, at times, quivered a living
 hand,
 And white lips moved and moaned. A
 father tore
 His gray hairs, by the body of his son,
 In frenzy ; and his fair young daughter
 wept
 On his old bosom. Suddenly a flash
 Clove the thick sulphurous air, and
 man and maid
 Sank, crushed and mangled by the
 shattering shell.

Then spake the Galilean : "Thou
 hast seen
 The blessed Master and his works of
 love :
 Look now on thine ! Hear'st thou the
 angels sing
 Above this open hell ? Thou God's
 high-priest !
 Thou the Vicegerent of the Prince of
 Peace !
 Thou the successor of his chosen ones !

I, Peter, fisherman of Galilee,
 In the dear Master's name, and for
 the love
 Of his true Church, proclaim thee Anti-
 christ,
 Alien and separate from his holy faith,
 Wide as the difference between death
 and life,
 The hate of man and the great love of
 God !
 Hence, and repent ! "

Thereat the pontiff woke,
 Trembling, and muttering o'er his fear-
 ful dream.
 "What means he?" cried the Bour-
 bon. "Nothing more
 Than that your majesty hath all too
 well
 Catered for your poor guests, and that,
 in sooth,
 The Holy Father's supper troubleth
 him,"
 Said Cardinal Antonelli, with a smile.

TAULER.

TAULER, the preacher, walked, one
 autumn day,
 Without the walls of Strasburg, by the
 Rhine,
 Pondering the solemn Miracle of Life ;
 As one who, wandering in a starless
 night,
 Feels, momently, the jar of unseen
 waves,
 And hears the thunder of an unknown
 sea,
 Breaking along an unimagined shore.

And as he walked he prayed. Even
 the same
 Old prayer with which, for half a score
 of years,
 Morning, and noon, and evening, lip
 and heart
 Had groaned : "Have pity upon me,
 Lord !
 Thou seest, while teaching others, I
 am blind.
 Send me a man who can direct my
 steps ! "

Then, as he mused, he heard along
his path
A sound as of an old man's staff among
The dry, dead linden-leaves; and, looking
up,
He saw a stranger, weak, and poor,
and old.

"Peace be unto thee, father!" Tauler said,
"God give thee a good day!" The old man raised
Slowly his calm blue eyes. "I thank thee, son;
But *all* my days are good, and none are ill."

Wondering thereat, the preacher spake again,
"God give thee happy life." The old man smiled,
"I never am unhappy."

Tauler laid His hand upon the stranger's coarse gray sleeve:
"Tell me, O father, what thy strange words mean.
Surely man's days are evil, and his life
Sad as the grave it leads to." "Nay, my son,
Our times are in God's hands, and all our days
Are as our needs: for shadow as for sun,
For cold as heat, for want as wealth, alike
Our thanks are due, since that is best which is;
And that which is not, sharing not his life,
Is evil only as devoid of good.
And for the happiness of which I speak,
I find it in submission to his will,
And calm trust in the holy Trinity
Of Knowledge, Goodness, and Almighty Power."

Silently wondering, for a little space, Stood the great preacher; then he spake as one Who, suddenly grappling with a haunting thought

Which long has followed, whispering through the dark
Strange terrors, drags it, shrieking, into light:
"What if God's will consign thee hence to Hell?"

"Then," said the stranger, cheerily, "be it so.
What Hell may be I know not; this I know,—
I cannot lose the presence of the Lord: One arm, Humility, takes hold upon His dear Humanity; the other, Love, Clasps his Divinity. So where I go He goes; and better fire-walled Hell with Him Than golden-gated Paradise without."

Tears sprang in Tauler's eyes. A sudden light, Like the first ray which fell on chaos, clove Apart the shadow wherein he had walked Darkly at noon. And, as the strange old man Went his slow way, until his silver hair Set like the white moon where the hills of vine Slope to the Rhine, he bowed his head and said: "My prayer is answered. God hath sent the man Long sought, to teach me, by his simple trust Wisdom the weary schoolmen never knew."

So, entering with a changed and cheerful step The city gates, he saw, far down the street, A mighty shadow break the light of noon, Which tracing backward till its airy lines Hardened to stony plinths, he raised his eyes O'er broad façade and lofty pediment, O'er architrave and frieze and sainted niche, Up the stone lace-work chiselled by the wise

Erwin of Steinbach, dizzily up to where
 In the noon-brightness the great Minister's tower,
 Jewelled with sunbeams on its mural crown,
 Rose like a visible prayer. "Behold!" he said,
 "The stranger's faith made plain before mine eyes.
 As yonder tower outstretches to the earth
 The dark triangle of its shade alone
 When the clear day is shining on its top,
 So, darkness in the pathway of Man's life
 Is but the shadow of God's providence,
 By the great Sun of Wisdom cast thereon;
 And what is dark below is light in Heaven."

LINES,

SUGGESTED BY READING A STATE PAPER, WHEREIN THE HIGHER LAW IS INVOKED TO SUSTAIN THE LOWER ONE.

A pious magistrate! sound his praise throughout
 The wondering churchea. Who shall henceforth doubt
 That the long-wished millennium draweth nigh?
 Sin in high places has become devout,
 Tithes mint, goes painful-faced, and prays its lie
 Straight up to Heaven, and calls it piety!

The pirate, watching from his bloody deck
 The weltering galleon, heavy with the gold
 Of Acapulco, holding death in check
 While prayers are said, brows crossed, and beads are told,—
 The robber, kneeling where the way-side cross
 On dark Abruzzo tells of life's dread loss

From his own carbine, glancing still abroad
 For some new victim, offering thanks to God!—
 Rome, listening at her altars to the cry
 Of midnight Murder, while her hounds of hell
 Scour France, from baptized cannon and holy bell
 And thousand-throated priesthood, loud and high,
 Pealing Te Deums to the shuddering sky,
 "Thanks to the Lord, who giveth victory!"
 What prove these, but that crime was ne'er so black
 As ghostly cheer and pious thanks to lack?
 Satan is modest. At Heaven's door he lays
 His evil offspring, and, in Scriptural phrase
 And saintly posture, gives to God the praise
 And honor of the monstrous progeny.
 What marvel, then, in our own time to see
 His old devices, smoothly acted o'er,—
 Official piety, locking fast the door
 Of Hope against three million souls of men,—
 Brothers, God's children, Christ's redeemed,—and then,
 With uprolled eyeballs and on bended knee,
 Whining a prayer for help to hide the key!

THE VOICES.

"Why urge the long, unequal fight,
 Since Truth has fallen in the street,
 Or lift anew the trampled light,
 Quenched by the heedless million's feet?
 "Give o'er the thankless task; for sake
 The fools who know not ill from good:
 Eat, drink, enjoy thy own, and take
 Thine ease among the multitude.

"Live out thyself; with others share
Thy proper life no more; assume
The unconcern of sun and air,
For life or death, or blight or bloom.

"The mountain pine looks calmly on
The fires that scourge the plains
below,
Nor heeds the eagle in the sun
The small birds piping in the snow!

"The world is God's, not thine; let
him
Work out a change, if change must be:
The hand that planted best can trim
And nurse the old unfruitful tree."

So spake the Tempter, when the light
Of sun and stars had left the sky,
I listened, through the cloud and night,
And heard, methought, a voice re-
ply:

"Thy task may well seem over-hard,
Who scatterest in a thankless soil
Thy life as seed, with no reward
Save that which Duty gives to Toil.

"Not wholly is thy heart resigned
To Heaven's benign and just decree,
Which, linking thee with all thy kind,
Transmits their joys and griefs to thee.

"Break off that sacred chain, and
turn
Back on thyself thy love and care;
Be thou thine own mean idol, burn
Faith, Hope, and Trust, thy children,
there.

"Released from that fraternal law
Which shares the common bale and
bliss,
No sadder lot could Folly draw,
Or Sin provoke from Fate, than this.

"The meal unshared is food unblest;
Thou hoard'st in vain what love
should spend;
Self-ease is pain; thy only rest
Is labor for a worthy end.

"A toil that gains with what it yields,
And scatters to its own increase,

And hears, while sowing outward fields,
The harvest-song of inward peace.

"Free-lipped the liberal streamlets run,
Free shines for all the healthful ray;
The still pool stagnates in the sun,
The lurid earth-fire haunts decay!

"What is it, that the crowd require
Thy love with hate, thy truth with
lies?

And but to faith, and not to sight,
The walls of Freedom's temple rise?

"Yet do thy work; it shall succeed
In thine or in another's day;
And, if denied the victor's meed,
Thou shalt not lack the toiler's pay.

"Faith shares the future's promise:
Love's
Self-offering is a triumph won;
And each good thought or action moves
The dark world nearer to the sun.

"Then faint not, falter not, nor plead
Thy weakness; truth itself is strong;
The lion's strength, the eagle's speed,
Are not alone vouchsafed to wrong.

"Thy nature, which, through fire and
flood,
To place or gain finds out its way,
Hath power to seek the highest good,
And duty's holiest call obey!

"Strivest thou in darkness? — Foes
without
In league with traitor thoughts with-
in:
Thy night-watch kept with trembling
Doubt
And pale Remorse the ghost of
Sin? —

"Hast thou not, on some week of storm,
Seen the sweet Sabbath breaking fair,
And cloud and shadow, sunlit, form
The curtains of its tent of prayer?

"So, haply, when thy task shall end,
The wrong shall lose itself in right,
And all thy week-day darkness blend
With the long Sabbath of the light!"

THE HERO.

"O for a knight like Bayard,
Without reproach or fear;
My light glove on his casque of steel,
My love-knot on his spear!

"O for the white plume floating
Sad Zutphen's field above,—
The lion heart in battle,
The woman's heart in love!

"O that man once more were manly,
Woman's pride, and not her scorn:
That once more the pale young mother
Dared to boast 'a man is born'!

"But, now life's slumberous current
No sun-bowed cascade wakes;
No tall, heroic manhood
The level dulness breaks.

"O for a knight like Bayard,
Without reproach or fear!
My light glove on his casque of steel,
My love-knot on his spear!"

Then I said, my own heart throbbing
To the time her proud pulse beat,
"Life hath its regal natures yet,—
True, tender, brave, and sweet!

"Smile not, fair unbeliever!
One man, at least, I know,
Who might wear the crest of Bayard
Or Sidney's plume of snow.

"Once, when over purple mountains
Died away the Grecian sun,
And the far Cyllenian ranges
Paled and darkened, one by one,—

"Fell the Turk, a bolt of thunder,
Cleaving all the quiet sky,
And against his sharp steel lightnings
Stood the Suliote but to die.

"Woe for the weak and halting!
The crescent blazed behind
A curving line of sabres,
Like fire before the wind!

"Last to fly and first to rally,
Rode he of whom I speak,
When, groaning in his bridle-path,
Sank down a wounded Greek.

"With the rich Albanian costume
Wet with many a ghastly stain,
Gazing on earth and sky as one
Who might not gaze again!

"He looked forward to the mountains,
Back on foes that never spare,
Then flung him from his saddle,
And placed the stranger there.

"Allah! hu!" Through flashing sabres,
Through a stormy hail of lead,
The good Thessalian charger
Up the slopes of olives sped.

"Hot spurred the turbaned riders;
He almost felt their breath,
Where a mountain stream rolled darkly down
Between the hills and death.

"One brave and manful struggle,—
He gained the solid land,
And the cover of the mountains,
And the carbines of his band!"

"It was very great and noble,"
Said the moist-eyed listener then,
"But one brave deed makes no hero;
Tell me what he since hath been!"

"Still a brave and generous manhood,
Still an honor without stain,
In the prison of the Kaiser,
By the barricades of Seine.

"But dream not helm and harness
The sign of valor true;
Peace hath higher tests of manhood
Than battle ever knew.

"Wouldst know him now? Behold
him,
The Cadmus of the blind,
Giving the dumb lip language,
The idiot clay a mind.

" Walking his round of duty
 Serenely day by day,
 With the strong man's hand of labor
 And childhood's heart of play.

" True as the knights of story,
 Sir Lancelot and his peers,
 Brave in his calm endurance
 As they in tilt of spears.

" As waves in stillest waters,
 As stars in noonday skies,
 All that wakes to noble action
 In his noon of calmness lies.

" Wherever outraged Nature
 Asks word or action brave,
 Wherever struggles labor,
 Wherever groans a slave, —

" Wherever rise the peoples,
 Wherever sinks a throne,
 The throbbing heart of Freedom finds
 An answer in his own.

" Knight of a better era,
 Without reproach or fear !
 Said I not well that Bayards
 And Sidneys still are here ? "

MY DREAM.

In my dream, methought I trod,
 Yesternight, a mountain road ;
 Narrow as Al Sirat's span,
 High as eagle's flight, it ran.

Overhead, a roof of cloud
 With its weight of thunder bowed ;
 Underneath, to left and right,
 Blankness and abysmal night.

Here and there a wild-flower blushed,
 Now and then a bird-song gushed ;
 Now and then, through rifts of shade,
 Stars shone out, and sunbeams played.

But the goodly company,
 Walking in that path with me,
 One by one the brink o'erslid,
 One by one the darkness hid.

Some with wailing and lament,
 Some with cheerful courage went ;
 But, of all who smiled or mourned,
 Never one to us returned.

Anxiously, with eye and ear,
 Questioning that shadow drear,
 Never hand in token stirred,
 Never answering voice I heard !

Steeper, darker ! — lo ! I felt
 From my feet the pathway melt.
 Swallowed by the black despair,
 And the hungry jaws of air,

Past the stony-throated caves,
 Strangled by the wash of waves,
 Past the splintered crags, I sank
 On a green and flowery bank, —

Soft as fall of thistle-down,
 Lightly as a cloud is blown,
 Soothingly as childhood pressed
 To the bosom of its rest.

Of the sharp-horned rocks instead,
 Green the grassy meadows spread,
 Bright with waters singing by
 Trees that propped a golden sky.

Painless, trustful, sorrow-free,
 Old lost faces welcomed me,
 With whose sweetnes of contest
 Still expectant hope was blent.

Waking while the dawning gray
 Slowly brightened into day,
 Pondering that vision fle'd,
 Thus unto myself I said : —

" Steep, and hung with clouds of strife,
 Is our narrow path of life :
 And our death the dreaded fall
 Through the dark, awaiting all.

" So, with painful steps we climb
 Up the dizzy ways of time,
 Ever in the shadow shed
 By the forecast of our dread.

" Dread of mystery solved alone,
 Of the untried and unknown :
 Yet the end thereof may seem
 Like the falling of my dream.

"And this heart-consuming care,
All our fears of here or there,
Change and absence, loss and death,
Prove but simple lack of faith."

Thou, O Most Compassionate !
Who didst stoop to our estate,
Drinking of the cup we drain,
Treading in our path of pain, —

Through the doubt and mystery,
Grant to us thy steps to see,
And the grace to draw from thence
Larger hope and confidence.

Show thy vacant tomb, and let,
As of old, the angels sit,
Whispering, by its open door :
"Fear not ! He hath gone before!"

THE BAREFOOT BOY.

BLESSINGS on thee, little man,
Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan !
With thy turned-up pantaloons,
And thy merry whistled tunes ;
With thy red lip, redder still
Kissed by strawberries on the hill ;
With the sunshine on thy face,
Through thy torn brim's jaunty grace ;
From my heart I give thee joy, —
I was once a barefoot boy !
Prince thou art, — the grown-up man
Only is republican.
Let the million-dollar ride !
Barefoot, trudging at his side,
Thou hast more than he can buy
In the reach of ear and eye, —
Outward sunshine, inward joy :
Blessings on thee, barefoot boy !

O for boyhood's painless play,
Sleep that wakes in laughing day,
Health that mocks the doctor's rules,
Knowledge never learned of schools,
Of the wild bee's morning chase,
Of the wild-flower's time and place,
Flight of fowl and habitude
Of the tenants of the wood ;
How the tortoise bears his shell,
How the woodchuck digs his cell,
And the ground-mole sinks his well ;

How the robin feeds her young,
How the oriole's nest is hung ;
Where the whitest lilies blow,
Where the freshest berries grow,
Where the groundnut trails its vine,
Where the wood-grape's clusters shine :
Of the black wasp's cunning way,
Mason of his walls of clay,
And the architectural plans
Of gray hornet artisans ! —
For, eschewing books and tasks,
Nature answers all he asks ;
Hand in hand with her he walks,
Face to face with her he talks,
Part and parcel of her joy, —
Blessings on the barefoot boy !

O for boyhood's time of June,
Crowding years in one brief moon,
When all things I heard or saw,
Me, their master, waited for.
I was rich in flowers and trees,
Humming-birds and honey-bees :
For my sport the squirrel played,
Plied the snouted mole his spade ;
For my taste the blackberry cone
Purpled over hedge and stone ;
Laughed the brook for my delight,
Through the day and through the night,
Whispering at the garden wall,
Talked with me from fall to fall ;
Mine the sand-rimmed pickerel pond,
Mine the walnut slopes beyond,
Mine, on bending orchard trees,
Apples of Hesperides !
Still as my horizon grew,
Larger grew my riches too ;
All the world I saw or knew
Seemed a complex Chinese toy,
Fashioned for a barefoot boy !

O for festal dainties spread,
Like my bowl of milk and bread, —
Pewter spoon and bowl of wood,
On the door-stone, gray and rude !
O'er me, like a regal tent,
Cloudy-ribbed, the sunset bent,
Purple-curtained, fringed with gold,
Looped in many a wind-swinged fold ;
While for music came the play
Of the pied frogs' orchestra ;
And, to light the noisy choir,
Lit the fly his lamp of fire.

I was monarch : pomp and joy
Waited on the barefoot boy !

Cheerily, then, my little man,
Live and laugh, as boyhood can !
Though the flinty slopes be hard,
Stubble-spear'd the new-mown sward,
Every morn shall lead thee through
Fresh baptisms of the dew ;
Every evening from thy feet
Shall the cool wind kiss the heat :
All too soon these feet must hide
In the prison cells of pride,
Lose the freedom of the sod,
Like a colt's for work be shod,
Made to tread the mills of toil,
Up and down in ceaseless moil :
Happy if their track be found
Never on forbidden ground ;
Happy if they sink not in
Quick and treacherous sands of sin.
Ah ! that thou couldst know thy joy,
Ere it passes, barefoot boy !

FLOWERS IN WINTER.

PAINTED UPON A PORTE LIVRE.

How strange to greet, this frosty morn,
In graceful counterfeit of flowers,
These children of the meadows, born
Of sunshine and of showers !

How well the conscious wood retains
The pictures of its flower - sown
home, —
The lights and shades, the purple stains,
And golden hues of bloom !

It was a happy thought to bring
To the dark season's frost and rime
This painted memory of spring,
This dream of summer-time.

Our hearts are lighter for its sake,
Our fancy's age renews its youth,
And dim-remembered fictions take
The guise of present truth.

A wizard of the Merrimack, —
So old ancestral legends say, —

Could call green leaf and blossom back
To frosted stem and spray.

The dry logs of the cottage wall,
Beneath his touch, put out their
leaves ;
The clay-bound swallow, at his call,
Played round the icy eaves.

The settler saw his oaken flail
Take bud, and bloom before his eyes ;
From frozen pools he saw the pale,
Sweet summer lilies rise.

To their old homes, by man profaned,
Came the sad dryads, exiled long,
And through their leafy tongues com-
plained
Of household use and wrong.

The beechen platter sprouted wild,
The pipkin wore its old-time green ;
The cradle o'er the sleeping child
Became a leafy screen.

Haply our gentle friend hath met,
While wandering in her sylvan quest,
Haunting his native woodlands yet,
That Druid of the West ; —

And, while the dew on leaf and flower
Glistened in moonlight clear and
still,
Learned the dusk wizard's spell of
power,
And caught his trick of skill.

But welcome, be it new or old,
The gift which makes the day more
bright,
And paints, upon the ground of cold
And darkness, warmth and light !

Without is neither gold nor green ;
Within, for birds, the birch-logs sing.
Yet, summer-like, we sit between
The autumn and the spring.

The one, with bridal blush of rose,
And sweetest breath of woodland
balm,
And one whose matron lips unclose
In smiles of saintly calm.

Fill soft and deep, O winter snow !
The sweet azalia's oaken bells,
And hide the bank where roses blow,
And swing the azure bells !

O'erlay the amber violet's leaves,
The purple aster's brookside home,
Guard all the flowers her pencil gives
A life beyond their bloom.

And she, when spring comes round
again,
By greening slope and singing flood
Shall wander, seeking, not in vain,
Her darlings of the wood.

THE RENDITION.

I HEARD the train's shrill whistle call,
I saw an earnest look beseech,
And rather by that look than speech
My neighbor told me all.

And, as I thought of Liberty
Marched hand-cuffed down that
sworded street,
The solid earth beneath my feet
Reeled fluid as the sea.

I felt a sense of bitter loss,—
Shame, tearless grief, and stifling
wrath,
And loathing fear, as if my path
A serpent stretched across.

All love of home, all pride of place,
All generous confidence and trust,
Sank smothering in that deep disgust
And anguish of disgrace.

Down on my native hills of June,
And home's green quiet, hiding all,
Fell sudden darkness like the fall
Of midnight upon noon !

And Law, an unloosed maniac, strong,
Blood-drunken, through the black-
ness trod,
Hoarse-shouting in the ear of God
The blasphemy of wrong.

"O Mother, from thy memories proud,
Thy old renown, dear Commonwealth,
Lend this dead air a breeze of health,
And smite with stars this cloud. .

"Mother of Freedom, wise and brave,
Rise awful in thy strength," I said ;
Ah me ! I spake but to the dead ;
I stood upon her grave !

6th mo., 1854.

LINES,

ON THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL TO
PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND LIBER-
TIES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE
STATE AGAINST THE FUGITIVE
SLAVE ACT.

I SAID I stood upon thy grave,
My Mother State, when last the moon
Of blossoms climb the skies of June.

And, scattering ashes on my head,
I wore, undreaming of relief,
The sackcloth of thy shame and grief.

Again that moon of blossoms shines
On leaf and flower and folded wing,
And thou hast risen with the spring !

Once more thy strong maternal arms
Are round about thy children flung,—
A lioness that guards her young !

No threat is on thy closéd lips,
But in thine eye a power to smite
The mad wolf backward from its
light.

Southward the baffled robber's track
Henceforth runs only ; hereaway,
The fell lycanthrope finds no prey.

Henceforth, within thy sacred gates,
His first low howl shall downward
draw
The thunder of thy righteous law.

Not mindless of thy trade and gain,
But, acting on the wiser plan,
Thou'rt grown conservative of man-

So shalt thou clothe with life the hope,
Dream-painted on the sightless eyes
Of him who sang of Paradise,—

The vision of a Christian man,
In virtue as in stature great,
Embodyed in a Christian State.

And thou, amidst thy sisterhood
Forbearing long, yet standing fast,
Shalt win their grateful thanks at last;

When North and South shall strive no
more,
And all their feuds and fears be lost
In Freedom's holy Pentecost.

6th mo., 1855. —

THE FRUIT-GIFT.

LAST night, just as the tints of autumn's
sky
Of sunset faded from our hills and
streams,
I sat, vague listening, lapped in twi-
light dreams,
To the leaf's rustle, and the cricket's
cry.
Then, like that basket, flush with sum-
mer fruit,
Dropped by the angels at the Prophet's
foot,
Came, unannounced, a gift of clustered
sweetness,
Full-orbed, and glowing with the
prisoned beams
Of summery suns, and, rounded to com-
pleteness
By kisses of the south-wind and the dew.
Thrilled with a glad surprise, methought
I knew
The pleasure of the homeward-turning
Jew,
When Eschol's clusters on his shoul-
ders lay,
Dropping their sweetness on his desert
way.

I said, "This fruit beseems no world
of sin.
Its parent vine, rooted' in Paradise,
O'ercrept the wall, and never paid
the price

Of the great mischief, — an ambrosial
tree,
Eden's exotic, somehow smuggled in,
To keep the thorns and thistles com-
pany."

Perchance our frail, sad mother plucked
in haste

A single vine-slip as she passed the
gate,

Where the dread sword, alternate paled
and burned,

And the stern angel, pitying her fate,
Forgave the lovely trespasser, and
turned

Aside his face of fire; and thus the
waste

And fallen world hath yet its annual
taste

Of primal good, to prove of sin the cost,
And show by one gleaned ear the
mighty harvest lost.

A MEMORY.

HERE, while the loom of Winter weaves
The shroud of flowers and fountains,
I think of thee and summer eves
Among the Northern mountains.

When thundert tolled the twilight's close,
And winds the lake were rude on,
And thou wert singing, *Ca'the Yowes,*
The bonny yowes of Cluden !

When, close and closer, hushing breath,
Our circle narrowed round thee,
And smiles and tears made up the wreath
Wherewith our silence crowned thee;

And, strangers all, we felt the ties
Of sisters and of brothers;
Ah ! whose of all those kindly eyes
Now smile upon another's?

The sport of Time, who still apart
The waifs of life is flinging :
O, nevermore shall heart to heart
Draw nearer for that singing !

Yet when the panes are frosty-starred,
And twilight's fire is gleaming,

I hear the songs of Scotland's bard
Sound softly through my dreaming !

A song that lends to winter snows
The glow of summer weather, —
Again I hear thee ca' the yowes
To Cluden's hills of heather !

—
TO C. S.

If I have seemed more prompt to censure wrong
Than praise the right ; if seldom to thine ear
My voice hath mingled with the exultant cheer
Borne upon all our Northern winds along ;
If I have failed to join the fickle throng
In wide-eyed wonder, that thou standest strong.
In victory, surprised is thee to find
Brougham's scathing power with Cannings grace combined ;
That he, for whom the ninefold Muses sang,
From their twined arms a giant athlete sprang,
Barbing the arrows of his native tongue
With the spent shafts Latona's archer flung,
To smite the Python of our land and time,
Fell as the monster born of Crissa's slime,
Like the blind bard who in Castalian springs
Tempered the steel that clove the crest of kings,
And on the shrine of England's freedom laid
The gifts of Cumæ and of Delphi's shade, —
Small need hast thou of words of praise from me.
Thou knowest my heart, dear friend,
and well canst guess
That, even though silent, I have not the less
Rejoiced to see thy actual life agree
With the large future which I shaped for thee,

When, years ago, beside the summer sea,
White in the moon, we saw the long waves fall
Baffled and broken from the rocky wall,
That, to the menace of the brawling flood,
Opposed alone its massive quietude,
Calm as a fate ; with not a leaf nor vine
Nor birch-spray trembling in the still moonshine,
Crowning it like God's peace. I sometimes think
That night-scene by the sea prophetic, —
(For Nature speaks in symbols and in signs,
And through her pictures human fate divines), —
That rock, wherefrom we saw the billows sink
In murmuring rout, uprising clear and tall
In the white light of heaven, the type of one
Who, momently by Error's host assailed,
Stands strong as Truth, in greaves of granite mailed ;
And, tranquil-fronted, listening over all
The tumult, hears the angels say, Well done !

—
THE KANSAS EMIGRANTS.

We cross the prairie as of old
The pilgrims crossed the sea,
To make the West, as they the East,
The homestead of the free !

We go to rear a wall of men
On Freedom's southern line,
And plant beside the cotton-tree
The rugged Northern pine !

We're flowing from our native hills
As our free rivers flow ;
The blessing of our Mother-land
Is on us as we go.

We go to plant her common schools
On distant prairie swells,

And give the Sabbaths of the wild
The music of her bells.

Upbearing, like the Ark of old,
The Bible in our van,
We go to test the truth of God
Against the fraud of man.

No pause, nor rest, save where the
streams

That feed the Kansas run,
Save where our Pilgrim gonfalon
Shall flout the setting sun !

We'll tread the prairie as of old
Our fathers sailed the sea,
And make the West, as they the East,
The homestead of the free !

SONG OF SLAVES IN THE DESERT.^{as}

WHERE are we going? where are we
going,
Where are we going, Rube?

Lord of peoples, lord of lands,
Look across these shining sands,
Through the furnace of the noon,
Through the white light of the moon.
Strong the Ghilee wind is blowing,
Strange and large the world is growing !
Speak and tell us where we are going,
Where are we going, Rube?

Bornou land was rich and good,
Wells of water, fields of food,
Dourra fields, and bloom of bean,
And the palm-tree cool and green :
Bornou land we see no longer,
Here we thirst and here we hunger,
Here the Moor-man smites in anger :
Where are we going, Rube?

When we went from Bornou land,
We were like the leaves and sand,
We were many, we are few ;
Life has one, and death has two :
Whitened bones our path are showing,
Thou All-seeing, thou All-knowing !
Hear us, tell us, where are we going,
Where are we going, Rube ?

Moons of marches from our eyes
Bornou land behind us lies ;
Stranger round us day by day
Bends the desert circle gray ;
Wild the waves of sand are flowing,
Hot the winds above them blowing,
Lord of all things ! — where are we
going ?

Where are we going, Rube?

We are weak, but Thou art strong ;
Short our lives, but Thine is long ;
We are blind, but Thou hast eyes ;
We are fools, but Thou art wise !

Thou, our morrow's pathway knowing
Through the strange world round us
growing,
Hear us, tell us where are we going,
Where are we going, Rube?

LINES,

INSCRIBED TO FRIENDS UNDER ARREST
FOR TREASON AGAINST THE SLAVE
POWER.

THE age is dull and mean. Men creep,
Not walk ; with blood too pale and
tame
To pay the debt they owe to shame ;
Buy cheap, sell dear ; eat, drink, and
sleep

Down - pillow'd, deaf to moaning
want ;

Pay tithes for soul-insurance ; keep
Six days to Mammon, one to Cant.

In such a time, give thanks to God,
That somewhat of the holy rage
With which the prophets in their age
On all its decent seemings trod,
Has set your feet upon the lie,
That man and ox and soul and clod
Are market stock to sell and buy !

The hot words from your lips, my own,
To caution trained, might not repeat ;
But if some tares among the wheat
Of generous thought and deed were
sown,

No common wrong provoked your
zeal;
The silken gauntlet that is thrown
In such a quarrel rings like steel.

The brave old strife the fathers saw
For Freedom calls for men again
Like those who battled not in vain
For England's Charter, Alfred's law;
And right of speech and trial just
Wage in your name their ancient war
With venal courts and perjured trust.

God's ways seem dark, but, soon or late,
They touch the shining hills of day;
The evil cannot brook delay,
The good can well afford to wait.
Give ermined knaves their hour of
crime;
Ye have the future grand and great,
The safe appeal of Truth to Time !

THE NEW EXODUS.⁶⁴

By fire and cloud, across the desert
sand,
And through the parted waves,
From their long bondage, with an out-
stretched hand,
God led the Hebrew slaves !

Dead as the letter of the Pentateuch,
As Egypt's statues cold,
In the adytum of the sacred book
Now stands that marvel old.

" Lo, God *is* great ! " the simple Mos-
lem says.
We seek the ancient date,
Turn the dry scroll, and make that
living phrase
A dead one : " God *was* great ! "

And, like the Coptic monks by Mousa's
wells,
We dream of wonders past,
Vague as the tales the wandering
Arab tells,
Each drowsier than the last.

O fools and blind ! Above the Pyramids
Stretches once more that hand,

And trancéd Egypt, fror' her stony lids,
Flings back her veil of sand.

And morning-smitten Memnon, sing-
ing, wakes :
And, listening by his Nile,
O'er Ammon's grave and awful visage
breaks
A sweet and human smile.

Not, as before, with hail and fire, and
call
Of death for midnight graves,
But in the stillness of the noonday, fall
The fetters of the slaves.

No longer through the Red Sea, as of
old,
The bondmen walk dry shod ;
Through human hearts, by love of
Him controlled,
Runs now that path of God !

THE HASCHISH.

Of all that Orient lands can vaunt
Of marvels with our own competing,
The strangest is the Haschish plant,
And what will follow on its eating.

What pictures to the taster rise,
Of Dervish or of Almeh dances !
Of Eblis, or of Paradise,
Set all aglow with Houri glances !

The poppy visions of Cathay,
The heavy beer-trance of the Suabian ;
The wizard lights and demon play
Of nights Walpurgis and Arabian !

The Mollah and the Christian dog
Change place in mad metempsycho-
sis :
The Muezzin climbs the synagogue,
The Rabbi shakes his beard at Mo-
ses !

The Arab by his desert well
Sits choosing from some Caliph's
daughters,
And hears his single camel's bell
Sound welcome to his regal quarters.

The Koran's reader makes complaint
Of Shitan dancing on and off it ;
The robber offers alms, the saint
Drinks Tokay and blasphemes the
Prophet.

Such scenes that Eastern plant awakes ;
But we have one ordained to beat it,
The Haschish of the West, which makes
Or fools or knaves of all who eat it.

The preacher eats, and straight appears
His Bible in a new translation ;
Its angels negro overseers,
And Heaven itself a snug plantation !

The man of peace, about whose dreams
The sweet millennial angels cluster,

Tastes the mad weed, and plots and
schemes,
A raving Cuban filibuster !

The noisiest Democrat, with ease,
It turns to Slavery's parish beadle ;
The shrewdest statesman eats and sees
Due southward point the polar needle.

The Judge partakes, and sits erelong
Upon his bench a railing blackguard ;
Decides off-hand that right is wrong,
And reads the ten commandments
backward.

O potent plant ! so rare a taste
Has never Turk or Gentoo gotten ;
The hempen Haschish of the East
Is powerless to our Western Cotton !

B A L L A D S .

MARY GARVIN.

FROM the heart of Waumbek Methna, from the lake that never fails,
Falls the Saco in the green lap of Conway's intervals ;
There, in wild and virgin freshness, its waters foam and flow,
As when Darby Field first saw them, two hundred years ago.

But, vexed in all its seaward course with bridges, dams, and mills,
How changed is Saco's stream, how lost its freedom of the hills,
Since travelled Jocelyn, factor Vines, and stately Champernoon
Heard on its banks the gray wolf's howl, the trumpet of the loon !

With smoking axle hot with speed, with steeds of fire and steam,
Wide-waked To-day leaves Yesterday behind him like a dream.
Still, from the hurrying train of Life, fly backward far and fast
The milestones of the fathers, the landmarks of the past.

But human hearts remain unchanged : the sorrow and the sin,
The loves and hopes and fears of old, are to our own akin ;
And if, in tales our fathers told, the songs our mothers sung,
Tradition wears a snowy beard, Romance is always young.

O sharp-lined man of traffic, on Saco's banks to-day !
O mill-girl watching late and long the shuttle's restless play !
Let, for the once, a listening ear the working hand beguile,
And lend my old Provincial tale, as suits, a tear or smile !

The evening gun had sounded from gray Fort Mary's walls ;
Through the forest, like a wild beast, roared and plunged the Saco's falls.

And westward on the sea-wind, that damp and gusty grew,
Over cedars darkening inland the smokes of Spurwink blew.

On the hearth of Farmer Garvin blazed the crackling walnut log ;
Right and left sat dame and goodman, and between them lay the dog,

Head on paws, and tail slow wagging, and beside him on her mat,
Sitting drowsy in the fire-light, winked and purred the mottled cat.

" Twenty years ! " said Goodman Garvin, speaking sadly, under breath,
And his gray head slowly shaking, as one who speaks of death.

The goodwife dropped her needles : " It is twenty years, to-day,
Since the Indians fell on Saco, and stole our child away."

Then they sank into the silence, for each knew the other's thought,
Of a great and common sorrow, and words were needed not.

" Who knocks ? " cried Goodman Garvin. The door was open thrown ;
On two strangers, man and maiden, cloaked and furred, the fire-light shone.

One with courteous gesture lifted the bear-skin from his head :
" Lives here Elkanah Garvin ? " " I am he," the goodman said.

" Sit ye down, and dry and warm ye, for the night is chill with rain."
And the goodwife drew the settle, and stirred the fire amain.

The maid unclasped her cloak-hood, the fire-light glistened fair
In her large, moist eyes, and over soft folds of dark brown hair.

Dame Garvin looked upon her : " It is Mary's self I see !
Dear heart ! " she cried, " now tell me, has my child come back to me ? "

" My name indeed is Mary," said the stranger, sobbing wild :
" Will you be to me a mother ? I am Mary Garvin's child !

" She sleeps by wooded Simcoe, but on her dying day
She bade my father take me to her kinsfolk far away.

" And when the priest besought her to do me no such wrong,
She said, ' May God forgive me ! I have closed my heart too long.'

" ' When I hid me from my father, and shut out my mother's call,
I sinned against those dear ones, and the Father of us all.'

" ' Christ's love rebukes no home-love, breaks no tie of kin apart ;
Better heresy in doctrine, than heresy of heart.'

" ' Tell me not the Church must censure : she who wept the Cross beside
Never made her own flesh strangers, nor the claims of blood denied ;

" ' And if she who wronged her parents, with her child atones to them,
Earthly daughter, Heavenly mother ! thou at least wilt not condemn !'

"So, upon her death-bed lying, my blessed mother spake ;
As we come to do her bidding, so receive us for her sake."

"God be praised !" said Goodwife Garvin, " He taketh, and he gives ;
He woundeth, but he healeth ; in her child our daughter lives ! "

"Amen !" the old man answered, as he brushed a tear away,
And, kneeling by his hearthstone, said, with reverence, " Let us pray."

All its Oriental symbols, and its Hebrew paraphrase,
Warm with earnest life and feeling, rose his prayer of love and praise.

But he started at beholding, as he rose from off his knee,
The stranger cross his forehead with the sign of Papistrie.

"What is this ?" cried Farmer Garvin. " Is an English Christian's home
A chapel or a mass-house, that you make the sign of Rome ? "

Then the young girl knelt beside him, kissed his trembling hand, and cried
"O, forbear to chide my father ; in that faith my mother died !

"On her wooden cross at Simcoe the dews and sunshine fall,
As they fall on Spurwink's graveyard ; and the dear God watches all ! "

The old man stroked the fair head that rested on his knee :
"Your words, dear child," he answered, "are God's rebuke to me.

"Creed and rite perchance may differ, yet our faith and hope be one.
Let me be your father's father, let him be to me a son."

When the horn, on Sabbath morning, through the still and frosty air,
From Spurwink, Pool, and Black Point, called to sermon and to prayer,

To the goodly house of worship, where, in order due and fit,
As by public vote directed, classed and ranked the people sit ;

Mistress first and goodwife after, clerkly squire before the clown,
From the brave coat, lace embroidered, to the gray frock, shading down ;

From the pulpit read the preacher, — " Goodman Garvin and his wife
Fain would thank the Lord, whose kindness has followed them through life,

"For the great and crowning mercy, that their daughter, from the wild,
Where she rests (they hope in God's peace), has sent to them her child ;

"And the prayers of all God's people they ask, that they may prove
Not unworthy, through their weakness, of such special proof of love."

As the preacher prayed, uprising, the aged couple stood,
And the fair Canadian also, in her modest maidenhood.

Thought the elders, grave and doubting, " She is Papist born and bred " ;
Thought the young men, " 'T is an angel in Mary Garvin's stead ! "

MAUD MULLER.

MAUD MULLER, on a summer's day,
Raked the meadow sweet with hay.

Beneath her torn hat glowed the wealth
Of simple beauty and rustic health.

Singing, she wrought, and her merry
glee
The mock-bird echoed from his tree.

But when she glanced to the far-off
town,
White from its hill-slope looking down,

The sweet song died, and a vague un-
rest
And a nameless longing filled her
breast,—

A wish, that she hardly dared to own,
For something better than she had
known.

The Judge rode slowly down the lane,
Smoothing his horse's chestnut mane.

He drew his bridle in the shade
Of the apple-trees, to greet the maid,

And ask a draught from the spring that
flowed
Through the meadow across the road.

She stooped where the cool spring bub-
bled up,
And filled for him her small tin cup,

And blushed as she gave it, looking
down
On her feet so bare, and her tattered
gown.

"Thanks!" said the Judge; "a sweeter
draught
From a fairer hand was never quaffed."

He spoke of the grass and flowers and
trees,
Of the singing birds and the humming
bees;

Then talked of the haying, and won-
dered whether
The cloud in the west would bring foul
weather.

And Maud forgot her brier-torn gown,
And her graceful ankles bare and brown;

And listened, while a pleased surprise
Looked from her long-lashed hazel eyes.

At last, like one who for delay
Seeks a vain excuse, he rode away.

Maud Muller looked and sighed: "Ah
me!

That I the Judge's bride might be!

"He would dress me up in silks so fine,
And praise and toast me at his wine.

"My father should wear a broadcloth
coat;
My brother should sail a painted boat.

"I'd dress my mother so grand and gay,
And the baby should have a new toy
each day.

"And I'd feed the hungry and clothe
the poor,
And all should bless me who left our
door."

The Judge looked back as he climbed
the hill,
And saw Maud Muller standing still.

"A form more fair, a face more sweet,
Ne'er hath it been my lot to meet.

"And her modest answer and graceful
air
Show her wise and good as she is fair.

"Would she were mine, and I to-day,
Like her, a harvester of hay:

"No doubtful balance of rights and
wrongs,
Nor weary lawyers with endless tongues,

"But low of cattle and song of birds,
And health and quiet and loving words."

But he thought of his sisters proud and cold,
And his mother vain of her rank and gold.

So, closing his heart, the Judge rode on,
And Maud was left in the field alone.

But the lawyers smiled that afternoon,
When he hummed in court an old love-tune;

And the young girl mused beside the well,
Till the rain on the unraked clover fell.

He wedded a wife of richest dower,
Who lived for fashion, as he for power.

Yet oft, in his marble hearth's bright glow,
He watched a picture come and go;

And sweet Maud Muller's hazel eyes
Looked out in their innocent surprise.

Oft, when the wine in his glass was red,
He longed for the wayside well instead;

And closed his eyes on his garnished rooms,
To dream of meadows and clover-blooms.

And the proud man sighed, with a secret pain,
"Ah, that I were free again !

"Free as when I rode that day,
Where the barefoot maiden raked her hay."

She wedded a man unlearned and poor,
And many children played round her door.

But care and sorrow, and childbirth pain,
Left their traces on heart and brain.

And oft, when the summer sun shone hot
On the new-mown hay in the meadow lot,

And she heard the little spring brook fall
Over the roadside, through the wall,

In the shade of the apple-tree again
She saw a rider draw his rein.

And, gazing down with timid grace,
She felt his pleased eyes read her face.

Sometimes her narrow kitchen walls
Stretched away into stately halls :

The weary wheel to a spinnet turned,
The tallow candle an astral burned,

And for him who sat by the chimney lug,
Dozing and grumbling o'er pipe and mug,

A manly form at her side she saw,
And joy was duty and love was law.

Then she took up her burden of life again,
Saying only, "It might have been."

Alas for maiden, alas for Judge,
For rich repiner and household drudge !

God pity them both ! and pity us all,
Who vainly the dreams of youth recall.

For of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these : "It might have been !"

Ah, well ! for us all some sweet hope lies

Deeply buried from human eyes :

And, in the hereafter, angels may Roll the stone from its grave away !

THE RANGER.

ROBERT RAWLIN ! — Frosts were falling
When the ranger's horn was calling
Through the woods to Canada.
Gone the winter's sleet and snowing,
Gone the spring-time's bud and blowing.

Gone the summer's harvest mowing,
And again the fields are gray.
Yet away, he's away!
Faint and fainter hope is growing
In the hearts that mourn his stay.

Where the lion, crouching high on
Abraham's rock with teeth of iron,
Glares o'er wood and wave away,
Faintly thence, as pines far sighing,
Or as thunder spent and dying,
Come the challenge and replying,
Come the sounds of flight and fray.
Well-a-day! Hope and pray!
Some are living, some are lying
In their red graves far away.

Straggling rangers, worn with dangers,
Homeward faring, weary strangers
Pass the farm-gate on their way;
Tidings of the dead and living,
Forest march and ambush, giving,
Till the maidens leave their weaving,
And the lads forget their play.
"Still away, still away!"
Sighs a sad one, sick with grieving,
"Why does Robert still delay?"

Nowhere fairer, sweeter, rarer,
Does the golden-locked fruit-bearer
Through his painted woodlands stray,
Than where hillside oaks and beeches
Overlook the long, blue reaches,
Silver coves and pebbled beaches,
And green isles of Casco Bay;
Nowhere day, for delay,
With a tenderer look beseeches,
"Let me with my charmed earth
stay."

On the grain-lands of the mainlands
Stands the serried corn like train-bands,
Plume and pennon rustling gay;
Out at sea, the islands wooded,
Silver birches, golden-hooded,
Set with maples, crimson-blooded,
White sea-foam and sand-hills gray,
Stretch away, far away.
Dim and dreamy, over-brooded
By the hazy autumn day.

Gayly chattering to the clattering
Of the brown nuts downward patterning,
Leap the squirrels, red and gray.

On the grass-land, on the fallow,
Drop the apples, red and yellow;
Drop the russet pears and mellow,
Drop the red leaves all the day.
And away, swift away,
Sun and cloud, o'er hill and hollow
Chasing, weave their web of play.

"Martha Mason, Martha Mason,
Prithee tell us of the reason
Why you mope at home to-day:
Surely smiling is not sinning:
Leave your quilling, leave your spin-
ning;
What is all your store of linen,
If your heart is never gay?
Come away, come away!
Never yet did sad beginning
Make the task of life a play."

Overbending, till she's blending
With the flaxen skein she's tending
Pale brown tresses smoothed away
From her face of patient sorrow,
Sits she, seeking but to borrow,
From the trembling hope of morrow,
Solace for the weary day.
"Go your way, laugh and play;
Unto Him who heeds the sparrow
And the lily, let me pray."

"With our rally, rings the valley,—
Join us!" cried the blue-eyed Nelly;
"Join us!" cried the laughing May,
"To the beach we all are going,
And, to save the task of rowing,
West by north the wind is blowing,
Blowing briskly down the bay!
Come away, come away!
Time and tide are swiftly flowing,
Let us take them while we may!

"Never tell us that you'll fail us,
Where the purple beach-plum mellow,
On the bluffs so wild and gray.
Hasten, for the oars are falling;
Hark, our merry mates are calling:
Time it is that we were all in,
Singing tideward down the bay!"
"Nay, nay, let me stay;
Sore and sad for Robert Rawlin
Is my heart," she said, "to-day."

"Vain your calling for Rob Rawlin!
Some red squaw his moose-meat 's broiling,

Or some French lass, singing gay;
Just forget as he 's forgetting;
What avails a life of fretting?
If some stars must needs be setting,
Others rise as good as they."

"Cease, I pray; go your way!"
Martha cries, her eyelids wetting;
"Foul and false the words you say!"

"Martha Mason, hear to reason!
Prithee, put a kinder face on!"
"Cease to vex me," did she say;
"Better at his side be lying,
With the mournful pine-trees sighing,
And the wild birds o'er us crying,
Than to doubt like mine a prey;
While away, far away,
Turns my heart, forever trying
Some new hope for each new day.

"When the shadows veil the meadows,
And the sunset's golden ladders
Sink from twilight's walls of gray,—
From the window of my dreaming,
I can see his sickle gleaming,
Cheery-voiced, can hear him teaming
Down the locust-shaded way;
But away, swift away,
Fades the fond, delusive seeming,
And I kneel again to pray.

"When the growing dawn is showing;
And the barn-yard cock is crowing,

And the horned moon pales away;
From a dream of him awaking,
Every sound my heart is making
Seems a footstep of his taking:

Then I hush the thought, and say,
'Nay, nay, he 's away!'
Ah! my heart, my heart is breaking
For the dear one far away."

Look up, Martha! worn and swarthy,
Glow a face of manhood worthy:
"Robert!" "Martha!" all they say.
O'er went wheel and reel together,
Little cared the owner whither;
Heart of lead is heart of feather,
Neon of night is noon of day!
Come away, come away!
When such lovers meet each other,
Why should prying idlers stay?

Quench the timber's fallen embers,
Quench the red leaves in December's
Hoary rime and chilly spray.
But the hearth shall kindle clearer,
Household welcomes sound sincerer,
Heart to loving heart draw nearer,
When the bridal bells shall say:
"Hope and pray, trust alway;
Life is sweeter, love is dearer,
For the trial and delay!"

LATER POEMS.

1856-57.



LATER POEMS.

THE LAST WALK IN AUTUMN.

i.

O'er the bare woods, whose out-stretched hands
Plead with the leaden heavens in vain,
I see, beyond the valley lands,
The sea's long level dim with rain.
Around me all things, stark and dumb,
Seem praying for the snows to come,
And, for the summer bloom and green-
ness gone,
With winter's sunset lights and dazzling
morn atone.

ii.

Along the river's summer walk,
The withered tufts of asters nod ;
And trembles on its arid stalk
The hoar plume of the golden-rod.
And on a ground of sombre fir,
And azure-studded juniper,
The silver birch its buds of purple shows,
And scarlet berries tell where bloomed
the sweet wild-rose !

iii.

With mingled sound of horns and bells,
A far-heard clang, the wild geese fly,
Storm-sent, from Arctic moors and fells,
Like a great arrow through the sky,
Two dusky lines converged in one,
Chasing the southward-flying sun ;
While the brave snow-bird and the har-
dy jay
Call to them from the pines, as if to bid
them stay.

iv.

I passed this way a year ago :
The wind blew south ; the noon of day
Was warm as June's ; and save that snow
Flecked the low mountains faraway,
And that the vernal-seeming breeze
Mocked faded grass and leafless trees,
I might have dreamed of summer as I
lay,
Watching the fallen leaves with the soft
wind at play.

v.

Since then, the winter blasts have piled
The white pagodas of the snow
On these rough slopes, and, strong
and wild,
Yon river, in its overflow
Of spring-time rain and sun, set free,
Crashed with its ices to the sea ;
And over these gray fields, then green
and gold,
The summer corn has waved, the thun-
der's organ rolled.

vi.

Rich gift of God ! A year of time !
What pomp of rise and shut of day,
What hues wherewith our Northern
chime
Makes autumn's dropping wood-
lands gay,
What airs outblown from ferny dells,
And clover-bloom and sweet-brier
smells,
What songs of brooks and birds, what
fruits and flowers,
Green woods and moonlit snows, have
in its round been ours !

VII.

I know not how, in other lands,
The changing seasons come and
go;
What splendors fall on Syrian sands,
What purple lights on Alpine snow!
Nor how the pomp of sunrise waits
On Venice at her watery gates;
A dream alone to me is Arno's vale,
And the Alhambra's halls are but a
traveller's tale.

VIII.

Yet, on life's current, he who drifts
Is one with him who rows or sails;
And he who endures widest lifts
No more of beauty's jealous veils
Than he who from his doorway sees
The miracle of flowers and trees,
Feels the warm Orient in the noonday
air,
And from cloud minarets hears the
sunset call to prayer!

IX.

The eye may well be glad, that looks
Where Phœnix's fountains rise
and fall;
But he who sees his native brooks
Laugh in the sun, has seen them
all.
The marble palaces of Ind
Rise round him in the snow and
wind;
From his lone sweetbrier Persian Ha-
fiz smiles,
And Rome's cathedral awe is in his
woodland aisles.

X.

And thus it is my fancy blends
The near at hand and far and rare;
And while the same horizon bends
Above the silver-sprinkled hair
Which flashed the light of morning
skies
On childhood's wonder-lifted eyes,
Within its round of sea and sky and
field,
Earth wheels with all her zones, the
Kosmos stands revealed.

XI.

And thus the sick man on his bed,
The toiler to his task-work bound,
Behold their prison-walls outspread,
Their clipped horizon widen round!
✓ While freedom-giving fancy waits,
Like Peter's angel at the gates,
The power is theirs to baffle care and
pain,
To bring the lost world back, and make
it theirs again!

XII.

What lack of goodly company,
When masters of the ancient lyre
Obey my call, and trace for me
Their words of mingled tears and
fire!
I talk with Bacon, grave and wise,
I read the world with Pascal's eyes;
And priest and sage, with solemn brows
austere,
And poets, garland-bound, the Lords
of Thought, draw near.

XIII.

Methinks, O friend, I hear thee say,
"In vain the human heart we
mock;
Bring living guests who love the day,
Not ghosts who fly at crow of cock!
The herbs we share with flesh and
blood,
Are better than ambrosial food,
With laurelled shades." I grant it,
nothing loath,
But doubly blest is he who can per-
take of both.

XIV.

He who might Plato's banquet grace,
Have I not seen before me sit,
And watched his puritanic face,
With more than Eastern wisdom
lit?
Shrewd mystic! who, upon the back
Of his Poor Richard's Almanack,
Writing the Sufi's song, the Gentoos' dream,
Links Menu's age of thought to Fox
ton's age of steam!

xv.

Here too, of answering love secure,
Have I not welcomed to my hearth
The gentle pilgrim troubadour,
Whose songs have girdled half the earth ;
Whose pages, like the magic mat
Whereon the Eastern lover sat,
Have borne me over Rhine-land's purple vines,
And Nubia's tawny sands, and Phrygia's mountain pines !

xvi.

And he, who to the lettered wealth
Of ages adds the lore unpriced,
The wisdom and the moral health,
The ethics of the school of Christ ;
The statesman to his holy trust,
As the Athenian archon, just,
Struck down, exiled like him for truth alone,
Has he not graced my home with beauty all his own ?

xvii.

What greetings smile, what farewells wave,
What loved ones enter and depart !
The good, the beautiful, the brave,
The Heaven-lent treasures of the heart !
How conscious seems the frozen sod
And beechen slope whereon they trod !
The oak-leaves rustle, and the dry grass bends
Beneath the shadowy feet of lost or absent friends.

xviii.

Then ask not why to these bleak hills
I cling, as clings the tufted moss,
To bear the winter's lingering chills,
The mocking spring's perpetual loss.
I dream of lands where summer smiles,
And soft winds blow from spicy isles,
But scarce would Ceylon's breath of flowers be sweet,
Could I not feel thy soil, New England, at my feet !

xix.

At times I long for gentler skies,
And bathe in dreams of softer air,
But homesick tears would fill the eyes
That saw the Cross without the Bear.
The pine must whisper to the palm,
The north-wind break the tropic calm ;
And with the dreamy languor of the Line,
The North's keen virtue blend, and strength to beauty join.

xx.

Better to stem with heart and hand
The roaring tide of life, than lie,
Unmindful, on its flowery strand,
Of God's occasions drifting by !
Better with naked nerve to bear
The needles of this goading air,
Than, in the lap of sensual ease, forego
The godlike power to do, the godlike aim to know.

xxi.

Home of my heart ! to me more fair
Than gay Versailles or Windsor's halls,
The painted, shingly town-house where
The freeman's vote for Freedom falls !
The simple roof where prayer is made,
Than Gothic groin and colonnade ;
The living temple of the heart of man,
Than Rome's sky-mocking vault, or many-spired Milan !

xxii.

More dear thy equal village schools,
Where rich and poor the Bible read,
Than classic halls where Priestcraft rules,
And Learning wears the chains of Creed ;
Thy glad Thanksgiving, gathering in
The scattered sheaves of home and kin,
Than the mad license following Lenten pains,
Or holidays of slaves who laugh and dance in chains.

XXIII.

And sweet homes nestle in these
dales,
And perch along these wooded
swells ;
And, blest beyond Arcadian vales,
They hear the sound of Sabbath
bells !
Here dwells no perfect man sublime,
Nor woman winged before her time,
But with the faults and follies of the
race,
Old home-bred virtues held their not
unhonored place.

XXIV.

Here manhood struggles for the sake
Of mother, sister, daughter, wife,
The graces and the loves which make
The music of the march of life ;
And woman, in her daily round
Of duty, walks on holy ground.
No unpaid menial tills the soil, nor here
Is the bad lesson learned at human
rights to sneer.

XXV.

Then let the icy north-wind blow
The trumpets of the coming storm,
To arrowy sleet and blinding snow
Yon slanting lines of rain transform.
Young hearts shall hail the drifted
cold,
As gayly as I did of old ;
And I, who watch them through the
frosty pane,
Unenvious, live in them my boyhood
o'er again.

XXVI.

And I will trust that He who heeds
The life that hides in mead and
wold,
Who hangs yon alder's crimson beads,
And stains these mosses green and
gold,
Will still, as He hath done, incline
His gracious care to me and mine ;
Grant what we ask aright, from wrong
debar,
And, as the earth grows dark, make
brighter every star !

XXVII.

I have not seen, I may not see,
My hopes for man take form in fact,
But God will give the victory
In due time ; in that faith I act.
And he who sees the future sure,
The baffling present may endure,
And bless, meanwhile, the unseen Hand
that leads
The heart's desires beyond the halting
step of deeds.

XXVIII.

And thou, my song, I send thee forth,
Where harsher songs of mine have
flown ;
Go, find a place at home and hearth
Where'er thy singer's name is
known :
Revive for him the kindly thought
Of friends ; and they who love him
not,
Touched by some strain of thine, per-
chance may take
The hand he proffers all, and thank
him for thy sake.

THE MAYFLOWERS.

The trailing arbutus, or mayflower, grew
abundantly in the vicinity of Plymouth,
and was the first flower that greeted the
Pilgrims after their fearful winter.

SAD Mayflower ! watched by winter
stars,
And nursed by winter gales,
With petals of the sleeted spars,
And leaves of frozen sails !

What had she in those dreary hours,
Within her ice-rimmed bay,
In common with the wild-wood flower,
The first sweet smiles of May ?

Yet, "God be praised ! " the Pilgrim
said,
Who saw the blossoms peer
Above the brown leaves, dry and dead,
"Behold our Mayflower here ! "

"God wills it : here our rest shall be,
Our years of wandering o'er,
For us the Mayflower of the sea,
Shall spread her sails no more."

O sacred flowers of faith and hope,
As sweetly now as then
Ye bloom on many a birchen slope,
In many a pine-dark glen.

Behind the sea-wall's rugged length,
Unchanged, your leaves unfold,
Like love behind the manly strength
Of the brave hearts of old.

So live the fathers in their sons,
Their sturdy faith be ours,
And ours the love that overruns
Its rocky strength with flowers.

The Pilgrim's wild and wintry day
Its shadow round us draws ;
The Mayflower of his stormy bay,
Our Freedom's struggling cause.

But warmer suns ere long shall bring
To life the frozen sod ;
And, through dead leaves of hope, shall
spring
Afresh the flowers of God !

BURIAL OF BARBOUR.

BEAR him, comrades, to his grave ;
Never over one more brave
Shall the prairie grasses weep,
In the ages yet to come,
When the millions in our room,
What we sow in tears, shall reap.

Bear him up the icy hill,
With the Kansas, frozen still
As his noble heart, below,
And the land he came to till
With a freeman's thews and will,
And his poor hut roofed with snow !

One more look of that dead face,
Of his murder's ghastly trace !
One more kiss, O widowed one !
Lay your left hands on his brow,

Lift your right hands up, and vow
That his work shall yet be done.

Patience, friends ! The eye of God
Every path by Murder trod
Watches, lidless, day and night ;
And the dead man in his shroud,
And his widow weeping loud,
And our hearts, are in his sight.

Every deadly threat that swells
With the roar of gambling hells,
Every brutal jest and jeer,
Every wicked thought and plan
Of the cruel heart of man,
Though but whispered, He can hear !

We in suffering, they in crime,
Wait the just award of time,
Wait the vengeance that is due ;
Not in vain a heart shall break,
Not a tear for Freedom's sake
Fall unheeded : God is true.

While the flag with stars bedecked
Threatens where it should protect,
And the Law shakes hands with
Crime,
What is left us but to wait,
Match our patience to our fate,
And abide the better time ?

Patience, friends ! The human heart
Everywhere shall take our part,
Everywhere for us shall pray ;
On our side are nature's laws,
And God's life is in the cause
That we suffer for to-day.

Well to suffer is divine ;
Pass the watchword down the line,
Pass the countersign : "ENDURE."
Not to him who rashly dares,
But to him who nobly bears,
Is the victor's garland sure.

Frozen earth to frozen breast,
Lay our slain one down to rest ;
Lay him down in hope and faith,
And above the broken sod,
Once again, to Freedom's God,
Pledge ourselves for life or death.

That the State whose walls we lay,
In our blood and tears, to-day,
Shall be free from bonds of shame,
And our goodly land untrod
By the feet of Slavery, shod
With cursing as with flame !

Plant the Buckeye on his grave,
For the hunter of the slave
 In its shadow cannot rest ;
And let martyr mound and tree
Be our pledge and guaranty
 Of the freedom of the West !

TO PENNSYLVANIA.

O STATE prayer-founded ! never hung
Such choice upon a people's tongue,
 Such power to bless or ban,
As that which makes thy whisper Fate,
For which on thee the centuries wait,
 And destinies of man !

Across thy Alleghanian chain,
With groanings from a land in pain,
 The west-wind finds its way :
Wild-wailing from Missouri's flood
The crying of thy children's blood
 Is in thy ears to-day !

And unto thee in Freedom's hour
Of sorest need God gives the power
 To ruin or to save ;
To wound or heal, to blight or bless
With fertile field or wilderness,
 A free home or a grave !

Then let thy virtue match the crime,
Rise to a level with the time ;
 And, if a son of thine
Betray or tempt thee, Brutus-like
For Fatherland and Freedom strike
 As Justice gives the sign.

Wake, sleeper, from thy dream of ease,
The great occasion's forelock seize ;
 And, let the north-wind strong,
And golden leaves of autumn, be
Thy coronal of Victory
 And thy triumphal song.

1856.

THE PASS OF THE SIERRA.

ALL night above their rocky bed
They saw the stars march slow ;
The wild Sierra overhead,
 The desert's death below.

The Indian from his lodge of bark,
 The gray bear from his den,
Beyond their camp-fire's wall of dark,
 Glared on the mountain men.

Still upward turned, with anxious strain
 Their leader's sleepless eye,
Where splinters of the mountain chain
 Stood black against the sky.

The night waned slow : at last, a glow,
 A gleam of sudden fire,
Shot up behind the walls of snow,
 And tipped each icy spire.

"Up, men !" he cried, "yon rocky
cone,
 To-day, please God, we 'll pass,
And look from Winter's frozen throne
 On Summer's flowers and grass ! "

They set their faces to the blast,
 They trod the eternal snow,
And faint, worn, bleeding, hailed at last
 The promised land below.

Behind, they saw the snow-cloud tossed
 By many an icy horn :
Before, warm valleys, wood-embossed,
 And green with vines and corn.

They left the Winter at their backs
 To flap his baffled wing,
And downward, with the cataracts,
 Leaped to the lap of Spring.

Strong leader of that mountain band,
 Another task remains,
To break from Slavery's desert land
 A path to Freedom's plains.

The winds are wild, the way is drear,
 Yet, flashing through the night,
Lo ! icy ridge and rocky spear
 Blaze out in morning light !

Rise up, FREMONT ! and go before ;
 The Hour must have its Man ;
 Put on the hunting-shirt once more,
 And lead in Freedom's van !

8th mo., 1856.

THE CONQUEST OF FINLAND.^{ss}

ACROSS the frozen marshes
 The winds of autumn blow,
 And the fen-lands of the Wetter
 Are white with early snow.

But where the low, gray headlands
 Look o'er the Baltic brine,
 A bark is sailing in the track
 Of England's battle-line.

No wares hath she to barter
 For Bothnia's fish and grain ;
 She saileth not for pleasure,
 She saileth not for gain.

But still by isle or main-land
 She drops her anchor down,
 Where'er the British cannon
 Rained fire on tower and town.

Outspake the ancient Amtman,
 At the gate of Helsingfors :
 " Why comes this ship a-spying
 In the track of England's wars ? "

" Godbless her," said the coast-guard,—
 " God bless the ship, I say.
 The holy angels trim the sails
 That speed her on her way !

" Where'er she drops her anchor,
 The peasant's heart is glad ;
 Where'er she spreads her parting sail,
 The peasant's heart is sad.

" Each wasted town and hamlet
 She visits to restore ;
 To roof the shattered cabin,
 And feed the starving poor.

" The sunken boats of fishers,
 The foraged beeves and grain,
 The spoil of flake and storehouse,
 The good ship brings again.

" And so to Finland's sorrow
 The sweet amend is made,
 As if the healing hand of Christ
 Upon her wounds were laid ! "

Then said the gray old Amtman,
 " The will of God be done !
 The battle lost by England's hate,
 By England's love is won !

" We braved the iron tempest
 That thundered on our shore :
 But when did kindness fail to find
 The key to Finland's door ?

" No more from Aland's ramparts
 Shall warning signal come,
 Nor startled Sweaborg hear again
 The roll of midnight drum.

" Beside our fierce Black Eagle
 The Dove of Peace shall rest ;
 And in the mouths of cannon
 The sea-bird make her nest.

" For Finland, looking seaward,
 No coming foe shall scan ;
 And the holy bells of Abo
 Shall ring, ' Good-will to man ! '

" Then row thy boat, O fisher !
 In peace on lake and bay :
 And thou, young maiden, dance again
 Around the poles of May !

" Sit down, old men, together,
 Old wives, in quiet spin ;
 Henceforth the Anglo-Saxon
 Is the brother of the Finn ! "

A LAY OF OLD TIME.

WRITTEN FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY
 AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

ONE morning of the first sad Fall,
 Poor Adam and his bride
 Sat in the shade of Eden's wall —
 But on the outer side.

She, blushing in her fig-leaf suit
 For the chaste garb of old ;

He, sighing o'er his bitter fruit
For Eden's drupes of gold.

Behind them, smiling in the morn,
Their forfeit garden lay,
Before them, wild with rock and thorn,
The desert stretched away.

They heard the air above them fanned,
A light step on the sward,
And lo ! they saw before them stand
The angel of the Lord !

"Arise," he said, "why look behind,
When hope is all before,
And patient hand and willing mind,
Your loss may yet restore ?

"I leave with you a spell whose power
Can make the desert glad,
And call around you fruit and flower
As fair as Eden had.

"I clothe your hands with power to lift
The curse from off your soil ;
Your very doom shall seem a gift,
Your loss a gain through Toil.

"Go, cheerful as yon humming-bees,
To labor as to play."
White glimmering over Eden's trees
The angel passed away.

The pilgrims of the world went forth
Obedient to the word,
And found where'er they tilled the earth
A garden of the Lord !

The thorn-tree cast its evil fruit
And blushed with plum and pear
And seeded grass and trodden root
Grew sweet beneath their care.

We share our primal parents' fate,
And in our turn and day,
Look back on Eden's sworded gate
As sad and lost as they.

But still for us his native skies
The pitying Angel leaves,
And leads through Toil to Paradise
New Adams and new Eves !

WHAT OF THE DAY?

A SOUND of tumult troubles all the air,
Like the low thunders of a sultry
sky
Far-rolling ere the downright lightning's
glare ;
The hills blaze red with warnings ;
foes draw nigh,
Treading the dark with challenge and
reply.
Behold the burden of the prophet's
vision, —
The gathering hosts, — the Valley of
Decision,
Dusk with the wings of eagles wheel-
ing o'er.

Day of the Lord, of darkness and not
light !

It breaks in thunder and the whirl-
wind's roar !

Even so, Father ! Let thy will be
done, —

Turn and o'erturn, end what thou hast
begun

In judgment or in mercy : as for me,
If but the least and frailest, let me be
Evermore numbered with the truly free
Who find thy service perfect liberty !
I fain would thank Thee that my mor-
tal life

Has reached the hour (albeit through
care and pain)

When Good and Evil, as for final strife,
Close dim and vast on Armageddon's
plain :

And Michael and his angels once again
Drive howling back the Spirits of the
Night.

O for the faith to read the signs aright
And, from the angle of thy perfect sight,
See Truth's white banner floating on
before ;

And the Good Cause, despite of veal
friends,

And base expedients, move to noble
ends ;

See Peace with Freedom make to
Time amends,

And, through its cloud of dust, the
threshing-floor,

Flailed by thy thunder, heaped with
chaffless grain !

THE FIRST FLOWERS.

For ages on our river borders,
These tassels in their tawny bloom,
And willowy studs of downy silver,
Have prophesied of Spring to come.

For ages have the unbound waters
Smiled on them from their pebbly
hem,
And the clear carol of the robin
And song of bluebird welcomed them.

But never yet from smiling river,
Or song of early bird, have they
Been greeted with a gladder welcome
Than whispers from my heart to-day.

They break the spell of cold and dark-
ness,
The weary watch of sleepless pain ;
And from my heart, as from the river,
The ice of winter melts again.

Thanks, Mary ! for this wild-wood token
Of Freya's footsteps drawing near ;
Almost, as in the rune of Asgard,
The growing of the grass I hear.

It is as if the pine-trees called me
From ceiled room and silent books,
To see the dance of woodland shadows,
And hear the song of April brooks !

As in the old Teutonic ballad
Live singing bird and flowering tree,
Together live in bloom and music,
I blend in song thy flowers and thee.

Earth's rocky tablets bear forever
The dint of rain and small bird's track :
Who knows but that my idle verses
May leave some trace by Merrimack !

The bird that trod the mellow layers
Of the young earth is sought in vain ;
The cloud is gone that wove the sand-
stone,
From God's design, with threads of
rain !

So, when this fluid age we live in
Shall stiffen round my careless rhyme,

Who made the vagrant tracks may
puzzle
The savans of the coming time :
And, following out their dim sugges-
tions,
Some idly-curious hand may draw
My doubtful portraiture, as Cuvier
Drew fish and bird from fin and claw.

And maidens in the far-off twilights,
Singing my words to breeze and stream,
Shall wonder if the old-time Mary
Were real, or the rhymer's dream !
1st 3d mo., 1857.

MY NAMESAKE.

You scarcely need my tardy thanks,
Who, self-rewarded, nurse and tend—
A green leaf on your own Green Banks—
The memory of your friend.

For me, no wreath, bloom-woven, hides
The sobered brow and lessening hair :
For aught I know, the myrtled sides
Of Helicon are bare.

Their scallop-shells so many bring
The fabled founts of song to try,
They've drained, for aught I know, the
spring
Of Aganippe dry.

Ah well !—The wreath the Muses braid
Proves often Folly's cap and bell ;
Methinks, my ample beaver's shade
May serve my turn as well.

Let Love's and Friendship's tender
debt
Be paid by those I love in life.
Why should the unborn critic whet
For me his scalping-knife ?

Why should the stranger peer and pry
One's vacant house of life about,
And drag for curious ear and eye
His faults and follies out ? —

Why stuff, for fools to gaze upon,
With chaff of words, the garb he wore,

As corn-husks when the ear is gone
Are rustled all the more?

Let kindly Silence close again,
The picture vanish from the eye,
And on the dim and misty main
Let the small ripple die.

Yet not the less I own your claim
To grateful thanks, dear friends of
mine.

Hang, if it please you so, my name
Upon your household line.

Let Fame from brazen lips blow wide
Her chosen names, I envy none :
A mother's love, a father's pride,
Shall keep alive my own !

Still shall that name as now recall
The young leaf wet with morning dew,
The glory where the sunbeams fall
The breezy woodlands through.

That name shall be a household word,
A spell to waken smile or sigh ;
In many an evening prayer be heard
And cradle lullaby.

And thou, dear child, in riper days
When asked the reason of thy name,
Shalt answer : "One 't were vain to
praise
Or censure bore the same.

"Some blamed him, some believed
him good, —
The truth lay doubtless 'twixt the
two, —

He reconciled as best he could
Old faith and fancies new.

"In him the grave and playful mixed,
And wisdom held with folly truce,
And Nature compromised betwixt
Good fellow and recluse.

"He loved his friends, forgave his foes;
And, if his words were harsh at times,
He spared his fellow-men, — his blows
Fell only on their crimes.

"He loved the good and wise, but found
His human heart to all akin

Who met him on the common ground
Of suffering and of sin.

"Whate'er his neighbors might endure
Of pain or grief his own became ;
For all the ills he could not cure
He held himself to blame.

"His good was mainly an intent,
His evil not of forethought done ;
The work he wrought was rarely meant
Or finished as begun.

"Ill served his tides of feeling strong
To turn the common mills of use ;
And, over-restless wings of song,
His birthright garb hung loose !

"His eye was beauty's powerless slave,
And his the ear which discord pains :
Few guessed beneath his aspect grave
What passions strove in chains.

"He had his share of care and pain,
No holiday was life to him ;
Still in the heirloom cup we drain
The bitter drop will swim.

"Yet Heaven was kind, and here a bird
And there a flower beguiled his way ;
And, cool, in summer noons, he heard
The fountains splash and play.

"On all his sad or restless moods
The patient peace of Nature stole ;
The quiet of the fields and woods
Sank deep into his soul.

"He worshipped as his fathers did,
And kept the faith of childish days,
And, howsoe'er he strayed or slid,
He loved the good old ways.

"The simple tastes, the kindly traits,
The tranquil air, and gentle speech
The silence of the soul that waits
For more than man to teach.

"The cant of party, school, and sect,
Provoked at times his honest scorn,
And Folly, in its gray respect,
He tossed on satire's horn.

" But still his heart was full of awe
 And reverence for all sacred things ;
 And, brooding over form and law,
 He saw the Spirit's wings !

" Life's mystery wrapt him like a cloud :
 He heard far voices mock his own,
 The sweep of wings unseen, the loud,
 Long roll of waves unknown.

" The arrows of his straining sight
 Fell quenched in darkness ; priest
 and sage,
 Like lost guides calling left and right,
 Perplexed his doubtful age.

" Like childhood, listening for the sound
 Of its dropped pebbles in the well,
 All vainly down the dark profound
 His brief-lined plummet fell.

" So, scattering flowers with pious pains
 On old beliefs, of later creeds,
 Which claimed a place in Truth's do-
 mains,
 He asked the title-deeds.

" He saw the old-time's groves and
 shrines
 In the long distance fair and dim ;
 And heard, like sound of far-off pines,
 The century-mellowed hymn !

" He dared not mock the Dervish whirl,
 The Brahmin's rite, the Lama's spell ;
 God knew the heart : Devotion's pearl
 Might sanctify the shell.

" While others trod the altar stairs
 He faltered like the publican ;
 And, while they praised as saints, his
 prayers
 Were those of sinful man.

" For, awed by Sinai's Mount of Law,
 The trembling faith alone sufficed,
 That, through its cloud and flame, he
 saw
 The sweet, sad face of Christ ! —

" And listening, with his forehead
 bowed,
 Heard the Divine compassion fill
 The pauses of the trump and cloud
 With whispers small and still.

" The words he spake, the thoughts he
 penned,
 Are mortal as his hand and brain,
 But, if they served the Master's end,
 He has not lived in vain ! "

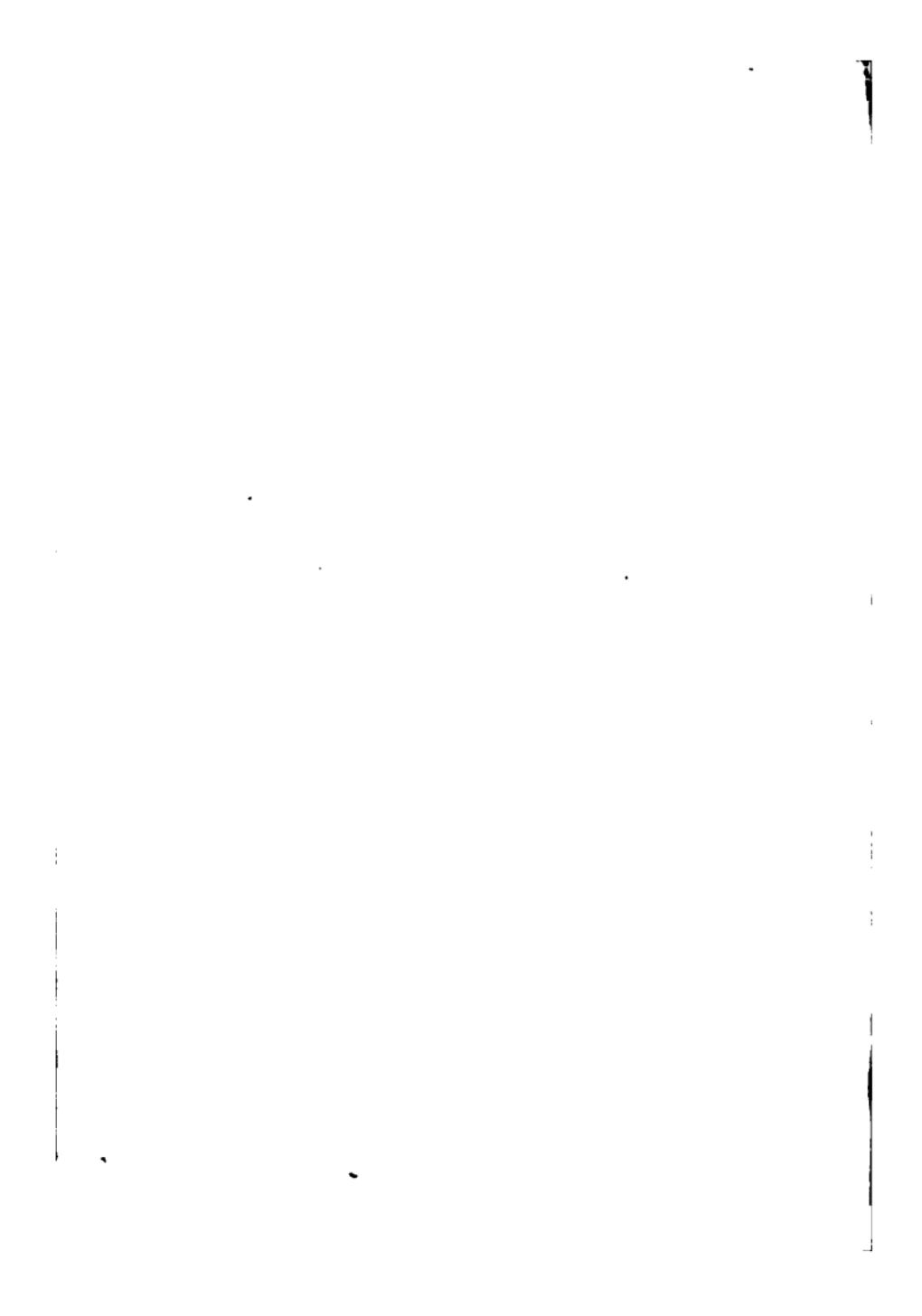
Heaven make thee better than thy
 name,
 Child of my friends ! — For thee I
 crave
 What riches never bought, nor fame
 To mortal longing gave.

I pray the prayer of Plato old :
 God make thee beautiful within,
 And let thine eyes the good behold
 In everything save sin !

Imagination held in check
 To serve not rule thy poised mind ;
 Thy Reason, at the frown or beck
 Of Conscience, loose or bind.

No dreamer thou, but real all, —
 Strong manhood crowning vigorous
 youth ;
 Life made by duty epic
 And rhythmic with the truth.

So shall that life the fruitage yield
 Which trees of healing only give,
 And green-leaved in the Eternal field
 Of God, forever live !



H O M E B A L L A D S.

1860.

I CALL the old time back : I bring these lays
To thee, in memory of the summer days
When, by our native streams and forest ways,

We dreamed them over ; while the rivulets made
Songs of their own, and the great pine-trees laid
On warm noon-lights the masses of their shade.

And *she* was with us, living o'er again
Her life in ours, despite of years and pain,—
The autumn's brightness after latter rain.

Beautiful in her holy peace as one
Who stands, at evening, when the work is done,
Glorified in the setting of the sun !

Her memory makes our common landscape seem
Fairer than any of which painters dream,
Lights the brown hills and sings in every stream :

For she whose speech was always truth's pure gold
Heard, not displeased, its simple legends told,
And loved with us the beautiful and old.

HOME BALLADS.

THE WITCH'S DAUGHTER.

It was the pleasant harvest time,
When cellar-bins are closely stowed,
And garrets bend beneath their load,

And the old swallow-haunted barns—
Brown-gabled, long, and full of seams
Through which the moted sunlight
streams,

And winds blow freshly in, to shake
The red plumes of the roosted cocks,
And the loose hay-mow's scented
locks—

Are filled with summer's ripened stores,
Its odorous grass and barley sheaves,
From their low scaffolds to their eaves.

On Esek Harden's oaken floor,
With many an autumn threshing-worn,
Lay the heaped ears of unhusked corn.

And thither came young men and maids,
Beneath a moon that, large and low,
Lit that sweet eve of long ago.

'They took their places; some by
chance,
And others by a merry voice
Or sweet smile guided to their choice.

How pleasantly the rising moon,
Between the shadow of the mows,
Looked on them through the great
elm-boughs!—

On sturdy boyhood sun-embrowned,
On girlhood with its solid curves
Of healthful strength and painless
nerves!

And jests went round, and laughs that
made

The house-dog answer with his howl,
And kept astir the barn-yard fowl;

And quaint old songs their fathers sung,
In Derby dales and Yorkshire moors,
Ere Norman William trod their
shores;

And tales, whose merry license shook
The fat sides of the Saxon thane,
Forgetful of the hovering Dane!

But still the sweetest voice was mute
That river-valley ever heard
From lip of maid or throat of bird;

For Mabel Martin sat apart,
And let the hay-mow's shadow fall
Upon the loveliest face of all.

She sat apart, as one forbid,
Who knew that none would condescend
To own the Witch-wife's child a
friend.

The season scarce had gone theirround,
Since curious thousands thronged to
see
Her mother on the gallows-tree;

And mocked the palsied limbs of age,
That faltered on the fatal stairs,
And wan lip trembling with its
prayers!

Few questioned of the sorrowing child,
Or, when they saw the mother die,
Dreamed of the daughter's agony.

They went up to their homes that day,
As men and Christians justified :
God willed it, and the wretch had
died !

Dear God and Father of us all,
Forgive our faith in cruel lies, —
Forgive the blindness that denies !

Forgive thy creature when he takes,
For the all-perfect love thou art,
Some grim creation of his heart.

Cast down our idols, overturn
Our bloody altars ; let us see
Thyself in thy humanity !

Poor Mabel from her mother's grave
Crept to her desolate hearth-stone,
And wrestled with her fate alone ;

With love, and anger, and despair,
The phantoms of disordered sense,
The awful doubts of Providence !

The school-boys jeered her as they
passed,
And, when she sought the house of
prayer,
Her mother's curse pursued her there.

And still o'er many a neighboring door
She saw the horseshoe's curvéd
charm,
To guard against her mother's harm ; —

That mother, poor, and sick, and lame,
Who daily, by the old arm-chair,
Folded her withered hands in pray-
er ; —

Who turned, in Salem's dreary jail,
Her worn old Bible o'er and o'er,
When her dim eyes could read no
more !

Sore tried and pained, the poor girl
kept
Her faith, and trusted that her way,
So dark, would somewhere meet the
day.

And still her weary wheel went round
Day after day, with no relief ;
Small leisure have the poor for grief.

So in the shadow Mabel sits :
Untouched by mirth she sees and
hears,
Her smile is sadder than her tears.

But cruel eyes have found her out,
And cruel lips repeat her name,
And taunt her with her mother's
shame.

She answered not with railing words,
But drew her apron o'er her face,
And, sobbing, glided from the place.

And only pausing at the door,
Her sad eyes met the troubled gaze
Of one who, in her better days,

Had been her warm and steady friend,
Ere yet her mother's doom had made
Even Esek Harden half afraid.

He felt that mute appeal of tears,
And, starting, with an angry frown
Hushed all the wicked murmurs
down.

"Good neighbors mine," he sternly
said,
"This passes harmless mirth or jest;
I brook no insult to my guest.

"She is indeed her mother's child ;
But God's sweet pity ministers
Unto no whiter soul than hers.

"Let Goody Martin rest in peace ;
I never knew her harm a fly,
And witch or not, God knows,—not I.

"I know who swore her life away ;
And, as God lives, I'd not condemn
An Indian dog on word of them."

The broadest lands in all the town,
The skill to guide, the power to awe,
Were Harden's ; and his word was
law.

None dared withstand him to his face,
But one sly maiden spake aside :
"The little witch is evil-eyed !

" Her mother only killed a cow,
Or witched a churn or dairy-pan ;
But she, forsooth, must charm a
man ! "

Poor Mabel, in her lonely home,
Sat by the window's narrow pane,
White in the moonlight's silver rain.

The river, on its pebbled rim,
Made music such as childhood knew ;
The door-yard tree was whispered
through

By voices such as childhood's ear
Had heard in moonlights long ago ;
And through the willow-boughs be-
low

She saw the rippled waters shine ;
Beyond, in waves of shade and light
The hills rolled off into the night.

Sweet sounds and pictures mocking so
The sadness of her human lot,
She saw and heard, but heeded not.

She strove to drown her sense of wrong,
And, in her old and simple way,
To teach her bitter heart to pray.

Poor child ! the prayer, begun in faith,
Grew to a low, despairing cry
Of utter misery : " Let me die !

" Oh ! take me from the scornful eyes
And hide me where the cruel speech
And mocking finger may not reach !

" I dare not breathe my mother's name :
A daughter's right I dare not crave
To weep above her unblest grave !

" Let me not live until my heart,
With few to pity, and with none
To love me, hardens into stone.

" O God ! have mercy on thy child,
Whose faith in thee grows weak and
small,
And take me ere I lose it all ! "

A shadow on the moonlight fell,
And murmuring wind and wave be-
came
A voice whose burden was her name.

Had then God heard her ? Had he
sent
His angel down ? In flesh and blood,
Before her Esek Harden stood !

He laid his hand upon her arm :
" Dear Mabel, this no more shall
be ;
Who scoffs at you, must scoff at me.

" You know rough Esek Harden well ;
And if he seems no suitor gay,
And if his hair is touched with gray,

" The maiden grown shall never find
His heart less warm than when she
smiled,
Upon his knees, a little child ! "

Her tears of grief were tears of joy,
As, folded in his strong embrace,
She looked in Esek Harden's face.

" O truest friend of all ! " she said,
" God bless you for your kindly
thought,
And make me worthy of my lot ! "

He led her through his dewy fields,
To where the swinging lanterns
glowed,
And through the doors the huskers
showed.

" Good friends and neighbors ! " Esek
said,
" I'm weary of this lonely life ;
In Mabel see my chosen wife !

" She greets you kindly, one and all ;
The past is past, and all offence
Falls harmless from her innocence.

" Henceforth she stands no more alone ;
You know what Esek Harden is : —
He brooks no wrong to him or his."

Now let the merriest tales be told,
And let the sweetest songs be sung
That ever made the old heart young !

For now the lost has found a home ;
And a lone hearth shall brighter
burn,
As all the household joys return !

O, pleasantly the harvest-moon,
Between the shadow of the mows,
Looked on them through the great
elm-boughs !

On Mabel's curls of golden hair,
On Esek's shaggy strength it fell ;
And the wind whispered, "It is well!"

THE GARRISON OF CAPE ANN.

FROM the hills of home forth looking, far beneath the tent-like span
Of the sky, I see the white gleam of the headland of Cape Ann.
Well I know its coves and beaches to the ebb-tide glimmering down,
And the white-walled hamlet children of its ancient fishing-town.

Long has passed the summer morning, and its memory waxes old,
When along yon breezy headlands with a pleasant friend I strolled.
Ah ! the autumn sun is shining, and the ocean wind blows cool,
And the golden-rod and aster bloom around thy grave, Rantoul !

With the memory of that morning by the summer sea I blend
A wild and wondrous story, by the younger Mather penned,
In that quaint *Magnalia Christi*, with all strange and marvellous things,
Heaped up huge and undigested, like the chaos Ovid sings.

Dear to me these far, faint glimpses of the dual life of old,
Inward, grand with awe and reverence ; outward, mean and coarse and cold
Gleams of mystic beauty playing over dull and vulgar clay,
Golden-threaded fancies weaving in a web of hidden gray.

The great eventful Present hides the Past ; but through the din
Of its loud life hints and echoes from the life behind steal in ;
And the lore of home and fireside, and the legendary rhyme,
Make the task of duty lighter which the true man owes his time.

So, with something of the feeling which the Covenanter knew,
When with pious chisel wandering Scotland's moorland graveyards through,
From the graves of old traditions I part the blackberry-vines,
Wipe the moss from off the headstones, and retouch the faded lines.

Where the sea-waves back and forward, hoarse with rolling pebbles, ran,
The garrison-house stood watching on the gray rocks of Cape Ann ;
On its windy site uplifting gabled roof and palisade,
And rough walls of unhewn timber with the moonlight overlaid.

On his slow round walked the sentry, south and eastward looking forth
O'er a rude and broken coast-line, white with breakers stretching north, —
Wood and rock and gleaming sand-drift, jagged capes, with bush and tree
Leaning inland from the smiting of the wild and gusty sea.

Before the deep-mouthed chimney, dimly lit by dying brands,
 Twenty soldiers sat and waited, with their muskets in their hands ;
 On the rough-hewn oaken table the venison haunch was shared,
 And the pewter tankard circled slowly round from beard to beard.

Long they sat and talked together, — talked of wizards Satan-sold ;
 Of all ghostly sights and noises, — signs and wonders manifold ;
 Of the spectre-ship of Salem, with the dead men in her shrouds,
 Sailing sheer above the water, in the loom of morning clouds ;

Of the marvellous valley hidden in the depths of Gloucester woods,
 Full of plants that love the summer, — blooms of warmer latitudes
 Where the Arctic birch is braided by the tropic's flowery vines,
 And the white magnolia-blossoms star the twilight of the pines !

But their voices sank yet lower, sank to husky tones of fear,
 As they spake of present tokens of the powers of evil near ;
 Of a spectral host, defying stroke of steel and aim of gun ;
 Never yet was ball to slay them in the mould of mortals run !

Thrice, with plumes and flowing scalp-locks, from the midnight wood they came, —
 Thrice around the block-house marching, met, unharmed its volleyed flame :
 Then, with mocking laugh and gesture, sunk in earth or lost in air,
 All the ghostly wonder vanished, and the moonlit sands lay bare.

Midnight came ; from out the forest moved a dusky mass that soon
 Grew to warriors, plumed and painted, grimly marching in the moon.
 "Ghosts or witches," said the captain, "thus I foil the Evil One !"
 And he rammed a silver button, from his doublet, down his gun.

Once again the spectral horror moved the guarded wall about ;
 Once again the levelled muskets through the palisades flashed out,
 With that deadly aim the squirrel on his tree-top might not shun,
 Nor the beach-bird seaward flying with his slant wing to the sun.

Like the idle rain of summer sped the harmless shower of lead.
 With a laugh of fierce derision, once again the phantoms fled ;
 Once again, without a shadow on the sands the moonlight lay,
 And the white smoke curling through it drifted slowly down the bay !

"God preserve us !" said the captain ; "never mortal foes were there ;
 They have vanished with their leader, Prince and Power of the air !
 Lay aside your useless weapons ; skill and prowess naught avail ;
 They who do the Devil's service wear their master's coat of mail ! "

So the night grew near to cock-crow, when again a warning call
 Roused the score of weary soldiers watching round the dusky hall :
 And they looked to flint and priming, and they longed for break of day.
 But the captain closed his Bible : "Let us cease from man, and pray ! "

To the men who went before us, all the unseen powers seemed near,
 And their steadfast strength of courage struck its roots in holy fear.
 Every hand forsook the musket, every head was bowed and bare,
 Every stout knee pressed the flag-stones, as the captain led in prayer.

Ceased thereat the mystic marching of the spectres round the wall,
But a sound abhorred, unearthly, smote the ears and hearts of all,—
Howls of rage and shrieks of anguish! Never after mortal man
Saw the ghostly leaguers marching round the block-house of Cape Ann.

So to us who walk in summer through the cool and sea-blown town,
From the childhood of its people comes the solemn legend down.
Not in vain the ancient fiction, in whose moral lives the youth
And the fitness and the freshness of an undecaying truth.

Soon or late to all our dwellings come the spectres of the mind,
Doubts and fears and dread forebodings, in the darkness undefined;
Round us throng the grim projections of the heart and of the brain,
And our pride of strength is weakness, and the cunning hand is vain.

In the dark we cry like children; and no answer from on high
Breaks the crystal spheres of silence, and no white wings downward fly:
But the heavenly help we pray for comes to faith, and not to sight,
And our prayers themselves drive backward all the spirits of the night!

THE PROPHECY OF SAMUEL SEWALL.

1697.

Up and down the village streets
Strange are the forms my fancy meets,
For the thoughts and things of to-day
are hid,
And through the veil of a closed lid
The ancient worthies I see again:
I hear the tap of the elder's cane,
And his awful periwig I see,
And the silver buckles of shoe and knee.
Stately and slow, with thoughtful air,
His black cap hiding his whitened hair,
Walks the Judge of the great Assize,
Samuel Sewall the good and wise.
His face with lines of firmness wrought,
He wears the look of a man unbought,
Who swears to his hurt and changes
not;
Yet, touched and softened nevertheless
With the grace of Christian gentleness,
The face that a child would climb to
kiss!
True and tender and brave and just,
That man might honor and woman trust.

Touching and sad, a tale is told,
Like a penitent hymn of the Psalmist old,
Of the fast which the good man life-long kept
With a haunting sorrow that never slept,
As the circling year brought round the time
Of an error that left the sting of crime,
When he sat on the bench of the witchcraft courts,
With the laws of Moses and Hale's Reports,
And spake, in the name of both, the word
That gave the witch's neck to the cord,
And piled the oaken planks that pressed
The feeble life from the warlock's breast!
All the day long, from dawn to dawn,
His door was bolted, his curtain drawn;
No foot on his silent threshold trod,
No eye looked on him save that of God,
As he baffled the ghosts of the dead with charms
Of penitent tears, and prayers, and psalms,
And, with precious proofs from the sacred word
Of the boundless pity and love of the Lord,

Tis faith confirmed and his trust renewed
 Th_o, the sin of his ignorance, sorely rued,
 Might be washed away in the mingled blood
 Of his human sorrow and Christ's dear blood !

Green forever the memory be
 Of the Judge of the old Theocracy,
 Whom even his errors glorified,
 Like a far-seen, sunlit mountain-side
 By the clo_o jy shadows which o'er it glide?

Honor and praise to the Puritan
 Who the hal_o step of his age outran,
 And, seeing tae infinite worth of man
 In the priceless gift the Father gave,
 In the infinite love that stooped to save,
 Dared not bran_o his brother a slave !
 "Who doth such wrong," he was wont to say,
 In his own quain_o, picture-loving way,
 "Flings up to Heaven a hand-grenade
 Which God shall cast down upon his head !"

Widely as heav_o, and hell, contrast
 That brave old jurist of the past
 And the cunning trickster and knave of courts
 Who the holy featu_os of Truth distorts, —

Ruling as right the will of the strong,
 Poverty, crime, and w_oakness wrong ;
 Wide-eared to power, to the wronged and weak
 Deaf as Egypt's gods ; /leek ;
 Scoffing aside at party's nod
 Order of nature and law of God ;
 For whose dabbled ermi_oe respect were waste,

Reverence folly, and awe misplaced ;
 Justice of whom 't were vain to seek
 As from Koordish robber or Syrian Sheik !

O, leave the wretch to hi_o bribes and sins ;

Let him rot in the web of li_o, he spins !
 To the saintly soul of the early day,
 To the Christian judge, let us turn and say :

"Praise and thanks for an honest man ! —
 Glory to God for the Puritan ! "

I see, far southward, this quiet day,
 The hills of Newbury rolling away,
 With the many tints of the season gay,
 Dreamily blending in autumn mist
 Crimson, and gold, and amethyst.
 Long and low, with dwarf trees crowned,
 Plum Island lies, like a whale aground,
 A stone's toss over the narrow sound.
 Inland, as far as the eye can go,
 The hills curve round like a bended bow ;

A silver arrow from out them sprung,
 I see the shine of the Quasycung ;
 And, round and round, over valley and hill,
 Old roads winding, as old roads will,
 Here to a ferry, and there to a mill ;
 And glimpses of chimneys and gabled eaves,

Through green elm arches and maple leaves, —
 Old homesteads sacred to all that can
 Gladden or sadden the heart of man, —
 Over whose thresholds of oak and stone
 Life and Death have come and gone !
 There pictured tiles in the fireplace show,

Great beams sag from the ceiling low,
 The dresser glitters with polished wares,
 The long clock ticks on the foot-worn stairs,

And the low, broad chimney shows the crack

By the earthquake made a century back.

Up from their midst springs the village spire

With the crest of its cock in the sun afire :

Beyond are orchards and planting lands,
 And great salt marshes and glimmering sands,

And, where north and south the coast-lines run,

The blink of the sea in breeze and sun !

I see it all like a chart unrolled,
 But my thoughts are full of the past and old,

I hear the tales of my boyhood told ;
And the shadows and shapes of early
days
Flit dimly by in the veiling haze,
With measured movement and rhyth-
mic chime
Weaving like shuttles my web of rhyme.
I think of the old man wise and good
Who once on yon misty hillsides
stood,
(A poet who never measured rhyme,
A seer unknown to his dull-eared time,))
And, propped on his staff of age,
looked down,
With his boyhood's love, on his native
town,
Where, written, as if on its hills and
plains,
His burden of prophecy yet remains,
For the voices of wood, and wave, and
wind
To read in the ear of the musing
mind :—

"As long as Plum Island, to guard
the coast
As God appointed, shall keep its post :
As long as a salmon shall haunt the
deep
Of Merrimack River, or sturgeon leap ;
As long as pickerel swift and slim,
Or red-backed perch, in Crane Pond
swim ;
As long as the annual sea-fowl know
Their time to come and their time to
go ;
As long as cattle shall roam at will
The green, grass meadows by Turkey
Hill ;
As long as sheep shall look from the
side
Of Oldtown Hill on marshes wide,
And Parker River, and salt-sea tide ;
As long as a wandering pigeon shall
search
The fields below from his white-oak
perch,
When the barley-harvest is ripe and
shorn
And the dry husks fall from the stand-
ing corn ;
As long as Nature shall not grow old,
Nor drop her work from her doting
hold,

And her care for the Indian corn forgot,
And the yellow rows in pairs to set ;—
So long shall Christians here be born,
Grow up and ripen as God's sweet
corn !—
By the beak of bird, by the breath of
frost
Shall never a holy ear be lost,
But, husked by Death in the Planter's
sight,
Be sown again in the fields of light !"

The Island still is purple with plums,
Up the river the salmon comes,
The sturgeon leaps, and the wild-fowl
feeds
On hillside berries and marish seeds,—
All the beautiful signs remain,
From spring-time sowing to autumn
rain
The good man's vision returns again !
And let us hope, as well we can,
That the Silent Angel who garners man
May find some grain as of old he found
In the human cornfield ripe and sound,
And the Lord of the Harvest deign to
own
The precious seed by the fathers' town !

SKIPPER IRESON'S RIDE.

Or all the rides since the birth of time,
Told in story or sung in rhyme, —
On Apuleius's Golden Ass,
Or one-eyed Calendar's horse of brass,
Witch astride of a human hack,
Islam's prophet on Al-Borák, —
The strangest ride that ever was sped
Was Ireson's, out from Marblehead !
Old Floyd Ireson, for his hard heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead !

Body of turkey, head of owl,
Wings a-droop like a rained-on fowl,
Feathered and ruffed in every part,
Skipper Ireson stood in the cart.
Scores of women, old and young,
Strong of muscle, and glib of tongue,

Pushed and pulled up the rocky lane,
Shouting and singing the shrill refrain :
“ Here’s Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr’d an’ futherr’d an’ corr’d in a
corr
By the women o’ Morble’ead ! ”

Wrinkled scolds with hands on hips,
Girls in bloom of cheek and lips,
Wild-eyed, free-limbed, such as chase
Bacchus round some antique vase,
Brief of skirt, with ankles bare,
Loose of kerchief and loose of hair,
With conch-shells blowing and fish-
horns’ twang,
Over and over the Mænads sang :
“ Here’s Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr’d an’ futherr’d an’ corr’d in a
corr
By the women o’ Morble’ead ! ”

Small pity for him ! — He sailed away
From a leaking ship, in Chaleur Bay, —
Sailed away from a sinking wreck,
With his own town’s-people on her
deck !
“ Lay by ! lay by ! ” they called to
him.
Back he answered, “ Sink or swim !
Brag of your catch of fish again ! ”
And off he sailed through the fog and
rain !
Old Floyd Ireson, for his hard heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead !

Fathoms deep in dark Chaleur
That wreck shall lie forevermore.
Mother and sister, wife and maid,
Looked from the rocks of Marblehead
Over the moaning and rainy sea, —
Looked for the coming that might not
be !
What did the winds and the sea-birds
say
Of the cruel captain who sailed away ? —
Old Floyd Ireson, for his hard heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead !

Through the street, on either side,
Up flew windows, doors swung wide ;
Sharp-tongued spinsters, old wives gray,
Treble lent the fish-horn’s bray.
Sea-worn grandsires, cripple-bound,
Hulks of old sailors run aground,
Shook head, and fist, and hat, and cane,
And cracked with curses the hoarse
refrain :
“ Here’s Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr’d an’ futherr’d an’ corr’d in a
corr
By the women o’ Morble’ead ! ”

Sweetly along the Salem road
Bloom of orchard and lilac showed.
Little the wicked skipper knew
Of the fields so green and the sky so
blue.
Riding there in his sorry trim,
Like an Indian idol glum and grim,
Scarcely he seemed the sound to hear
Of voices shouting, far and near :
“ Here’s Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr’d an’ futherr’d an’ corr’d in a
corr
By the women o’ Morble’ead ! ”

“ Hear me, neighbors ! ” at last he
cried, —
“ What to me is this noisy ride ?
What is the shame that clothes the skin
To the nameless horror that lives within ?
Waking or sleeping, I see a wreck,
And hear a cry from a reeling deck !
Hate me and curse me, — I only dread
The hand of God and the face of the
dead ! ”
Said old Floyd Ireson, for his hard
heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead !

Then the wife of the skipper lost at sea
Said, “ God has touched him ! — why
should we ? ”
Said an old wife mourning her only son,
“ Cut the rogue’s tether and let him
run ! ”
So with soft relentings and rude excuse,
Half scorn, half pity, they cut him loose,

And gave him a cloak to hide him in,
And left him alone with his shame and
sin.

Poor Floyd Ireson, for his hard heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead!

TELLING THE BEES.⁶⁶

HERE is the place; right over the hill
Runs the path I took;
You can see the gap in the old wall
still,
And the stepping-stones in the shallow brook.

There is the house, with the gate red-barred,
And the poplars tall;
And the barn's brown length, and the cattle-yard,
And the white horns tossing above the wall.

There are the beehives ranged in the sun;
And down by the brink
Of the brook are her poor flowers, weed-o'er-run,
Pansy and daffodil, rose and pink.

A year has gone, as the tortoise goes,
Heavy and slow;
And the same rose blows, and the same sun glows,
And the same brook sings of a year ago.

There's the same sweet clover-smell in the breeze;
And the June sun warm
Tangles his wings of fire in the trees,
Setting, as then, over Fernside farm.

I mind me how with a lover's care
From my Sunday coat
I brushed off the burrs, and smoothed
my hair,
And cooled at the brookside my brow and throat.

Since we parted, a month had passed,—
To love, a year;
Down through the beeches I looked at last
On the little red gate and the well-sweep near.

I can see it all now,—the slantwise rain
Of light through the leaves,
The sundown's blaze on her window-pane,
The bloom of her roses under the eaves.

Just the same as a month before,—
The house and the trees,
The barn's brown gable, the vine by the door,—
Nothing changed but the hives of bees.

Before them, under the garden wall,
Forward and back,
Went drearily singing the chore-girl small,
Draping each hive with a shred of black.

Trembling, I listened: the summer sun
Had the chill of snow;
For I knew she was telling the bees of one
Gone on the journey we all must go!

Then I said to myself, "My Mary weeps
For the dead to-day:
Haply her blind old grandsire sleeps
The fret and the pain of his age away."

But her dog whined low; on the doorway sill,
With his cane to his chin,
The old man sat; and the chore-girl still
Sung to the bees stealing out and in.

And the song she was singing ever since
In my ear sounds on:—
"Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not hence!
Mistress Mary is dead and gone!"

"Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not hence!
Mistress Mary is dead and gone!"

THE SYCAMORES.

In the outskirts of the village,
On the river's winding shores,
Stand the Occidental plane-trees,
Stand the ancient sycamores.

One long century hath been numbered,
And another half-way told,
Since the rustic Irish gleeman
Broke for them the virgin mould.

Deftly set to Celtic music,
At his violin's sound they grew,
Through the moonlit eves of summer,
Making Amphion's fable true.

Rise again, thou poor Hugh Tallant !
Pass in jerkin green along,
With thy eyes brimful of laughter,
And thy mouth as full of song.

Pioneer of Erin's outcasts,
With his fiddle and his pack ;
Little dreamed the village Saxons
Of the myriads at his back.

How he wrought with spade and fiddle,
Delved by day and sang by night,
With a hand that never wearied,
And a heart forever light —

Still the gay tradition mingles
With a record grave and drear,
Like the rolic air of Cluny,
With the solemn march of Mear.

When the box-tree, white with blossoms,
Made the sweet May woodlands glad,
And the Aronia by the river
Lighted up the swarming shad,

And the bulging nets swept shoreward,
With their silver-sided haul,
Midst the shouts of dripping fishers,
He was merriest of them all.

When, among the jovial huskers,
Love stole in at Labor's side
With the lusty airs of England,
Soft his Celtic measures vied.

Songs of love and wailing lyke-wake,
And the merry fair's carouse ;

Of the wild Red Fox of Erin
And the Woman of Three Cows,

By the blazing hearths of winter,
Pleasant seemed his simple tales,
Midst the grimmer Yorkshire legends
And the mountain myths of Wales.

How the souls in Purgatory
Scrambled up from fate forlorn,
On St. Keven's sackcloth ladder,
Slyly hitched to Satan's horn.

Of the fiddler who at Tara
Played all night to ghosts of kings ;
Of the brown dwarfs, and the fairies
Dancing in their moorland rings !

Jolliest of our birds of singing,
Best he loved the Bob-o-link.
"Hush !" he'd say, "the tipsy fairies !
Hear the little folks in drink !"

Merry-faced, with spade and fiddle,
Singing through the ancient town,
Only this, of poor Hugh Tallant,
Hath Tradition handed down.

Not a stone his grave discloses ;
But if yet his spirit walks,
'T is beneath the trees he planted,
And when Bob-o-Lincoln talks ;

Green memorials of the gleeman !
Linking still the river-shores,
With their shadows cast by sunset,
Stand Hugh Tallant's sycamores !

When the Father of his Country
Through the north-land riding came,
And the roofs were starred with banners,
And the steeples rang acclaim, —

When each war-scarred Continental,
Leaving smithy, mill, and farm,
Waved his rusted sword in welcome,
And shot off his old king's arm, —

Slowly passed that august Presence
Down the thronged and shouting
street ;
Village girls as white as angels,
Scattering flowers around his feet.

Midway, where the plane-tree's shadow
Deepest fell, his rein he drew :
On his stately head, uncovered,
Cool and soft the west-wind blew.

And he stood up in his stirrups,
Looking up and looking down
On the hills of Gold and Silver
Rimming round the little town, —

On the river, full of sunshine,
To the lap of greenest vales
Winding down from wooded headlands,
Willow-skirted, white with sails.

And he said, the landscape sweeping
Slowly with his ungloved hand,
“I have seen no prospect fairer
In this goodly Eastern land.”

Then the bugles of his escort
Stirred to life the cavalcade :
And that head, so bare and stately,
Vanished down the depths of shade.

Ever since, in town and farm-house,
Life has had its ebb and flow ;
Thrice hath passed the human harvest
To its garner green and low.

But the trees the gleeman planted,
Through the changes, changeless
stand ;
As the marble calm of Tadmor
Marks the desert's shifting sand.

Still the level moon at rising
Silvers o'er each stately shaft ;
Still beneath them, half in shadow,
Singing, glides the pleasure craft.

Still beneath them, arm-enfolded,
Love and Youth together stray ;
While, as heart to heart beats faster,
More and more their feet delay.

Where the ancient cobbler, Keezar,
On the open hillside wrought,
Singing, as he drew his stitches,
Songs his German masters taught, —

Singing, with his gray hair floating
Round his rosy ample face, —

Now a thousand Saxon craftsmen
Stitch and hammer in his place.

All the pastoral lanes so grassy
Now are Traffic's dusty streets ;
From the village, grown a city,
Fast the rural grace retreats.

But, still green, and tall, and stately,
On the river's winding shores,
Stand the Occidental plane-trees,
Stand Hugh Tallant's sycamores.

THE DOUBLE-HEADED SNAKE OF NEWBURY.

“Concerning ye Amphisbæna, as soon as I received your commands, I made diligent inquiry : . . . he assures me ye it had really two heads, one at each end ; two mouths, two stings or tongues.” — REV. CHRISTOPHER TOPPAN to COTTON MATHER.

FAR away in the twilight time
Of every people, in every clime,
Dragons and griffins and monsters dire,
Born of water, and air, and fire,
Or nursed, like the Python, in the mud
And ooze of the old Deucalion flood,
Crawl and wriggle and foam with rage,
Through dusk tradition and ballad age.
So from the childhood of Newbury town
And its time of fable the tale comes
down
Of a terror which haunted bush and
brake,
The Amphisbæna, the Double Snake !

Thou who makest the tale thy mirth,
Consider that strip of Christian earth
On the desolate shore of a sailless sea,
Full of terror and mystery,
Half-redeemed from the evil hold
Of the wood so dreary, and dark, and
old,
Which drank with its lips of leaves the
dew
When Time was young, and the world
was new,
And wove its shadows with sun and
moon,
Ere the stones of Cheops were squared
and hewn.

Think of the sea's dread monotone,
Of the mournful wail from the pine-
wood blown,
Of the strange, vast splendors that lit
the North,
Of the troubled throes of the quaking
earth,
And the dismal tales the Indian told.
Till the settler's heart at his hearth
grew cold,
And he shrank from the tawny wizard's
boasts,
And the hovering shadows seemed full
of ghosts,
And above, below, and on every side,
The fear of his creed seemed verified ; —
And think, if his lot were now thine
own,
To grope with terrors nor named nor
known,
How laxer muscle and weaker nerve
And a feebler faith thy need might
serve ;
And own to thyself the wonder more
That the snake had two heads, and not
a score !

Whether he lurked in the Oldtown
fen
Or the gray earth-flax of the Devil's
Den,
Or swam in the wooded Artichoke,
Or coiled by the Northman's Written
Rock,
Nothing on record is left to show ;
Only the fact that he lived, we know,
And left the cast of a double head
In the scaly mask which he yearly shed.
For he carried a head where his tail
should be,
And the two, of course, could never
agree,
But wriggled about with main and might,
Now to the left and now to the right ;
Pulling and twisting this way and that,
Neither knew what the other was at.
A snake with two heads, lurking so
near ! —
Judge of the wonder, guess at the fear !
Think what ancient gossips might say,
Shaking their heads in their dreary
way,
Between the meetings on Sabbath-
day !

How urchins, searching at day's decline
The Common Pasture for sheep or
kine,
The terrible double-ganger heard
In leafy rustle or whir of bird !
Think what a zest it gave to the sport,
In berry-time, of the younger sort,
As over pastures blackberry-twined,
Reuben and Dorothy lagged behind,
And closer and closer, for fear of harm,
The maiden clung to her lover's arm ;
And how the spark, who was forced to
stay,
By his sweetheart's fears, till the break
of day,
Thanked the snake for the fond delay !

Far and wide the tale was told,
Like a snowball growing while it rolled.
The nurse hushed with it the baby's
cry ;
And it served, in the worthy minister's
eye,
To paint the primitive serpent by.
Cotton Mather came galloping down
All the way to Newbury town,
With his eyes agog and his ears set
wide,
And his marvellous inkhorn at his
side ;
Stirring the while in the shallow pool
Of his brains for the lore he learned at
school,
To garnish the story, with here a streak
Of Latin, and there another of Greek :
And the tales he heard and the notes he
took,
Behold ! are they not in his Wonder-
Book ?

Stories, like dragons, are hard to kill.
If the snake does not, the tale runs
still
In Byfield Meadows, on Pipestave Hill.
And still, whenever husband and wife
Publish the shame of their daily strife,
And, with mad cross-purpose, tug and
strain
At either end of the marriage-chain,
The gossips say, with a knowing shake
Of their gray heads, " Look at the
Double Snake !
One in body and two in will,
The Amphisbæna is living still ! "

THE SWAN SONG OF PARSON AVERY.

WHEN the reaper's task was ended, and the summer wearing late,
Parson Avery sailed from Newbury, with his wife and children eight,
Dropping down the river-harbor in the shallop "Watch and Wait."

Pleasantly lay the clearings in the mellow summer-morn,
With the newly planted orchards dropping their fruits first-born,
And the homesteads like green islands amid a sea of corn.

Broad meadows reached out seaward the tided creeks between,
And hills rolled wave-like inland, with oaks and walnuts green;—
A fairer home, a goodlier land, his eyes had never seen.

Yet away sailed Parson Avery, away where duty led,
And the voice of God seemed calling, to break the living bread
To the souls of fishers starving on the rocks of Marblehead.

All day they sailed : at nightfall the pleasant land-breeze died,
The blackening sky, at midnight, its starry lights denied,
And far and low the thunder of tempest prophesied !

Blotted out were all the coast-lines, gone were rock, and wood, and sand;
Grimly anxious stood the skipper with the rudder in his hand,
And questioned of the darkness what was sea and what was land.

And the preacher heard his dear ones, nestled round him, weeping sore ;
"Never heed, my little children ! Christ is walking on before
To the pleasant land of heaven, where the sea shall be no more."

All at once the great cloud parted, like a curtain drawn aside,
To let down the torch of lightning on the terror far and wide ;
And the thunder and the whirlwind together smote the tide.

There was wailing in the shallop, woman's wail and man's despair,
A crash of breaking timbers on the rocks so sharp and bare,
And, through it all, the murmur of Father Avery's prayer.

From his struggle in the darkness with the wild waves and the blast,
On a rock, where every billow broke above him as it passed,
Alone, of all his household, the man of God was cast.

There a comrade heard him praying, in the pause of wave and wind :
"All my own have gone before me, and I linger just behind ;
Not for life I ask, but only for the rest thy ransomed find !

"In this night of death I challenge the promise of thy word !—
Let me see the great salvation of which mine ears have heard !—
Let me pass from hence forgiven, through the grace of Christ, our Lord !

"In the baptism of these waters wash white my every sin,
And let me follow up to thee my household and my kin !
Open the sea-gate of thy heaven, and let me enter in !"

When the Christian sings his death-song, all the listening heavens draw near,
And the angels, leaning over the walls of crystal, hear
How the notes so faint and broken swell to music in God's ear.

The ear of God was open to his servant's last request ;
As the strong wave swept him downward the sweet hymn upward pressed,
And the soul of Father Avery went, singing, to its rest.

There was wailing on the main-land, from the rocks of Marblehead ;
In the stricken church of Newbury the notes of prayer were read ;
And long, by board and hearthstone, the living mourned the dead.

And still the fishers outbound, or scudding from the squall,
With grave and reverent faces, the ancient tale recall,
When they see the white waves breaking on the Rock of Avery's Fall !

THE TRUCE OF PISCATAQUA.

1675.

FLAKE these long blocks of brick and stone,
These huge mill-monsters overgrown ;
Blot out the humbler piles as well,
Where, moved like living shuttles, dwell

The weaving genii of the bell ;
Tear from the wild Cocheco's track
The dams that hold its torrents back ;
And let the loud-rejoicing fall
Plunge, roaring, down its rocky wall ;
And let the Indian's paddle play
On the unbridged Piscataqua !
Wide over hill and valley spread
Once more the forest, dusk and dread,
With here and there a clearing cut
From the walled shadows round it shut ;

Each with its farm-house builded rude,
By English yeoman squared and hewed,
And the grim, flanked block-house bound

With bristling palisades around.
So, haply, shall before thine eyes
The dusty veil of centuries rise,
The old, strange scenery overlay
The tamer pictures of to-day,
While, like the actors in a play,
Pass in their ancient guise along
The figures of my border song :
What time beside Cocheco's flood
The white man and the red man stood,
With words of peace and brotherhood ;

When passed the sacred calumet
From lip to lip with fire-draught wet,
And, puffed in scorn, the peace-pipe's smoke
Through the gray beard of Waldron broke,
And Squando's voice, in suppliant plea
For mercy, struck the haughty key
Of one who held, in any fate,
His native pride inviolate !

" Let your ears be opened wide !
He who speaks has never lied.
Waldron of Piscataqua,
Hear what Squando has to say !

" Squando shuts his eyes and sees,
Far off, Saco's hemlock-trees.
In his wigwam, still as stone,
Sits a woman all alone,

" Wampum beads and birchen strands
Dropping from her careless hands,
Listening ever for the fleet
Patter of a dead child's feet !

" When the moon a year ago
Told the flowers the time to blow,
In that lonely wigwam smiled
Menewee, our little child.

" Ere that moon grew thin and old,
He was lying still and cold ;
Sent before us, weak and small,
When the Master did not call !

"On his little grave I lay ;
Three times went and came the day ;
Thrice above me blazed the noon,
Thrice upon me wept the moon.

"In the third night-watch I heard,
Far and low, a spirit-bird ;
Very mournful, very wild,
Sang the totem of my child.

"Menewee, poor Menewee,
Walks a path he cannot see :
Let the white man's wigwam light
With its blaze his steps aright.

"All uncalled, he dares not show
Empty hands to Manito :
Better gifts he cannot bear
Than the scalps his slayers wear."

"All the while the totem sang,
Lightning blazed and thunder rang ;
And a black cloud, reaching high,
Pulled the white moon from the sky.

"I, the medicine-man, whose ear
All that spirits hear can hear, —
I, whose eyes are wide to see
All the things that are to be, —

"Well I knew the dreadful signs
In the whispers of the pines,
In the river roaring loud,
In the mutter of the cloud.

"At the breaking of the day,
From the grave I passed away ;
Flowers bloomed round me, birds sang
glad,
But my heart was hot and mad.

"There is rust on Squando's knife,
From the warm, red springs of life ;
On the funeral hemlock-trees
Many a scalp the totem sees.

"Blood for blood ! But evermore
Squando's heart is sad and sore ;
And his poor squaw waits at home
For the feet that never come !

"Waldron of Cocheco, hear !
Squando speaks, who laughs at fear

Take the captives he has ta'en ;
Let the land have peace again ! "

As the words died on his tongue,
Wide apart his warriors swung ;
Parted, at the sign he gave,
Right and left, like Egypt's wave.

And, like Israel passing free
Through the prophet-charmed sea,
Captive mother, wife, and child
Through the dusky terror fled.

One alone, a little maid,
Middleway her steps delayed,
Glancing, with quick, troubled sight,
Round about from red to white.

Then his hand the Indian laid
On the little maiden's head,
Lightly from her forehead fair
Smoothing back her yellow hair.

"Gift or favor ask I none ;
What I have is all my own :
Never yet the birds have sung,
'Squando hath a beggar's tongue.'

"Yet for her who waits at home,
For the dead who cannot come,
Let the little Gold-hair be
In the place of Menewee !

"Mishanock, my little star !
Come to Saco's pines afar :
Where the sad one waits at home,
Wequashim, my moonlight, come ! "

"What !" quoth Waldron, "leave a
child
Christian-born to heathens wild ?
As God lives, from Satan's hand
I will pluck her as a brand ! "

"Hear me, white man !" Squando
cried :
"Let the little one decide.
Wequashim, my moonlight, say,
Wilt thou go with me, or stay ?"

Slowly, sadly, half afraid,
Half regretfully, the maid
Owned the ties of blood and race, —
Turned from Squando's pleading face

Not a word the Indian spoke,
But his wampum chain he broke,
And the beaded wonder hung
On that neck so fair and young.

Silence-shod, as phantoms seem
In the marches of a dream,
Single-filed, the grim array
Through the pine-trees wound away.

Doubting, trembling, sore amazed,
Through her tears the young child
gazed.

"God preserve her!" Waldron said;
"Satan hath bewitched the maid!"

Tears went and came. At close of day
Singing came a child from play,
Tossing from her loose-locked head
Gold in sunshine, brown in shade.

Pride was in the mother's look,
But her head she gravely shook,
And with lips that fondly smiled
Weigned to chide her truant child.

Unabashed, the maid began:
"Up and down the brook I ran,
Where, beneath the bank so steep,
Lie the spotted trout asleep.

"Chip!" went squirrel on the wall,
After me I heard him call,
And the cat-bird on the tree
Tried his best to mimic me.

"Where the hemlocks grew so dark
That I stopped to look and hark,
On a log, with feather-hat,
By the path, an Indian sat.

"Then I cried, and ran away;
But he called, and bade me stay;
And his voice was good and mild
As my mother's to her child.

"And he took my wampum chain,
Looked and looked it o'er again;
Gave me berries, and, beside,
On my neck a plaything tied."

Straight the mother stooped to see
What the Indian's gift might be.
On the braid of wampum hung,
Lo! a cross of silver swung.

Well she knew its graven sign,
Squando's bird and totem pine;
And, a mirage of the brain,
Flowed her childhood back again.

Flushed the roof the sunshine through,
Into space the walls outgrew;
On the Indian's wigwam-mat,
Blossom-crowned, again she sat.

Cool she felt the west-wind blow,
In her ear the pines sang low,
And, like links from out a chain,
Dropped the years of care and pain.

From the outward toil and din,
From the griefs that gnaw within,
To the freedom of the woods
Called the birds, and winds, and floods.

Well, O painful minister!
Watch thy flock, but blame not her,
If her ear grew sharp to hear
All their voices whispering near.

Blame her not, as to her soul
All the desert's glamour stole,
That a tear for childhood's loss
Dropped upon the Indian's cross.

When, that night, the Book was read,
And she bowed her widowed head,
And a prayer for each loved name
Rose like incense from a flame,

To the listening ear of Heaven,
Lo! another name was given:
"Father, give the Indian rest!
Bless him for his love has blest!"

MY PLAYMATE.

The pines were dark on Ramoth hill,
Their song was soft and low:
The blossoms in the sweet May wind
Were falling like the snow.

The blossoms drifted at our feet,
The orchard birds sang clear;
The sweetest and the saddest day
It seemed of all the year.

For, more to me than birds or flowers,
My playmate left her home,
And took with her the laughing spring,
The music and the bloom.

She kissed the lips of kith and kin,
She laid her hand in mine :
What more could ask the bashful boy
Who fed her father's kine ?

She left us in the bloom of May :
The constant years told o'er
Their seasons with as sweet May morns,
But she came back no more.

I walk, with noiseless feet, the round
Of uneventful years ;
Still o'er and o'er I sow the spring
And reap the autumn ears.

She lives where all the golden year
Her summer roses blow ;
The dusky children of the sun
Before her come and go.

There haply with her jewelled hands
She smooths her silken gown, —
No more the homespun lap wherein
I shook the walnuts down.

The wild grapes wait us by the brook,
The brown nuts on the hill,
And still the May-day flowers make
sweet
The woods of Follymill.

The lilies blossom in the pond,
The bird builds in the tree,
The dark pines sing on Ramoth hill
The slow song of the sea.

I wonder if she thinks of them,
And how the old time seems. —
If ever the pines of Ramoth wood
Are sounding in her dreams.

I see her face, I hear her voice :
Does she remember mine ?
And what to her is now the boy
Who fed her father's kine ?

What cares she that the orioles build
For other eyes than ours, —
That other hands with nuts are filled,
And other laps with flowers ?

O playmate in the golden time !
Our mossy seat is green,
Its fringing violets blossom yet,
The old trees o'er it lean.

The winds so sweet with birch and fern
A sweeter memory blow ;
And there in spring the veeries sing
The song of long ago.

And still the pines of Ramoth wood
Are moaning like the sea, —
The moaning of the sea of change
Between myself and thee !

POEMS AND LYRICS.



POEMS AND LYRICS.

THE SHADOW AND THE LIGHT.

"And I sought, whence is Evil : I set before the eye of my spirit the whole creation ; whatsoever we see therein, — sea, earth, air, stars, trees, moral creatures, — yea, whatsoever there is we do not see, — angels and spiritual powers. Where is evil, and whence comes it, since God the Good hath created all things? Why made He anything at all of evil, and not rather by His All-mightiness cause it not to be ? These thoughts I turned in my miserable heart, overcharged with most gnawing cares." "And, admonished to return to myself, I entered even into my inmost soul, Thou being my guide, and beheld even beyond my soul and mind the Light unchangeable. He who knows the Truth knows what that Light is, and he that knows it knows Eternity! O Truth, who art Eternity! Love, who art Truth! Eternity, who art Love! And I beheld that Thou madest all things good, and to Thee is nothing whatsoever evil. From the angels to the worm, from the first motion to the last, Thou settest each in its place, and everything is good in its kind. Woe is me ! — how high art Thou in the highest, how deep in the deepest! and Thou never departest from us and we scarcely return to Thee." — Augustine's *Soliloquies*, Book VII.

THE fourteen centuries fall away
Between us and the Afric saint,
And at his side we urge, to-day,
The immemorial quest and old complaint.

No outward sign to us is given, —
From sea or earth comes no reply ;
Hushed as the warm Numidian heaven
He vainly questioned bards our frozen sky.

No victory comes of all our strife, —
From all we grasp the meanings slips ;

The Sphinx sits at the gate of life,
With the old question on her awful lips.

In paths unknown we hear the feet
Of fear before, and guilt behind ;
We pluck the wayside fruit, and eat
Ashes and dust beneath its golden rind.

From age to age descends unchecked
The sad bequest of sire to son,
The body's stain, the mind's defect, —
Through every web of life the dark threads run.

O, why and whither? — God knows
all ;
I only know that he is good,
And that whatever may befall
Or here or there, must be the best that
could.

Between the dreadful cherubim
A Father's face I still discern,
As Moses looked of old on him,
And saw his glory into goodness turn !

For he is merciful as just ;
And so, by faith correcting sight,
I bow before his will, and trust
Howe'er they seem he doeth all things right.

And dare to hope that he will make
The rugged smooth, the doubtful plain ;
His mercy never quite forsake ;
His healing visit every realm of pain ;

That suffering is not his revenge
Upon his creatures weak and frail

Sent on a pathway new and strange
With feet that wander and with eyes
that fail ;

That, o'er the crucible of pain,
Watches the tender eye of Love
The slow transmuting of the chain
Whose links are iron below to gold
above !

Ah me ! we doubt the shining skies,
Seen through our shadows of offence,
And drown with our poor childish cries
The cradle-hymn of kindly Providence.

And still we love the evil cause,
And of the just effect complain ;
We tread upon life's broken laws,
And murmur at our self-inflicted pain ;

We turn us from the light, and find
Our spectral shapes before us
thrown,
As they who leave the sun behind
Walk in the shadows of themselves
alone.

And scarce by will or strength of ours
We set our faces to the day ;
Weak, wavering, blind, the Eternal
Powers
Alone can turn us from ourselves away.

Our weakness is the strength of sin,
But love must needs be stronger far,
Outreaching all and gathering in
The erring spirit and the wandering
star.

A Voice grows with the growing years ;
Earth, hushing down her bitter cry,
Looks upward from her graves, and
hears,
“ The Resurrection and the Life am I.”

O Love Divine ! — whose constant
beam
Shines on the eyes that will not see,
And waits to bless us, while we dream
Thou leavest us because we turn from
thee !

All souls that struggle and aspire,
All hearts of prayer by thee are lit ;

And, dim or clear, thy tongues of fire
On dusky tribes and twilight centuries
sit.

Nor bounds, nor clime, nor creed thou
know'st,
Wide as our need thy favors fall :
The white wings of the Holy Ghost
Stoop, seen or unseen, o'er the heads
of all.

O Beauty, old yet ever new ! ^{at}
Eternal Voice, and Inward Word,
The Logos of the Greek and Jew,
The old sphere-music which the Samian
heard !

Truth which the sage and prophet
saw,
Long sought without, but found
within,
The Law of Love beyond all law,
The Life o'erflooding mortal death and
sin !

Shine on us with the light which
glowed
Upon the trance-bound shepherd's
way,
Who saw the Darkness overflowed
And drowned by tides of everlasting
Day.^{ss}

Shine, light of God ! — make broad
thy scope
To all who sin and suffer ; more
And better than we dare to hope
With Heaven's compassion make our
longings poor !

THE GIFT OF TRITEMIUS.

TRITEMIUS OF HERBIPOLIS, one day,
While kneeling at the altar's foot to
pray,
Alone with God, as was his pious choice,
Heard from without a miserable voice,
A sound which seemed of all sad things
to tell,
As of a lost soul crying out of hell.

Thereat the Abbot paused ; the chain
whereby
His thoughts went upward broken by
that cry ;
And, looking from the casement, saw
below
A wretched woman, with gray hair
a-flow,
And withered hands held up to him,
who cried
For alms as one who might not be
denied.

She cried, " For the dear love of Him
who gave
His life for ours, my child from bond-
age save, —
My beautiful, brave first-born, chained
with slaves
In the Moor's galley, where the sun-
smitten waves
Lap the white walls of Tunis ! " —
" What I can
I give," Tritemius said: " my prayers." —
" O man
Of God ! " she cried, for grief had made
her bold,
" Mock me not thus ; I ask not prayers,
but gold.
Words will not serve me, alms alone
suffice ;
Even while I speak perchance my first-
born dies."

" Woman ! " Tritemius answered, " from
our door
None go unfed ; hence are we always
poor :
A single soldo is our only store.
Thou hast our prayers ; — what can we
give thee more ? "

" Give me," she said, " the silver can-
dlesticks
On either side of the great crucifix.
God well may spare them on his errands
sped,
Or he can give you golden ones instead."

Then spake Tritemius, " Even as thy
word,
Woman, so be it ! (Our most gracious
Lord,

Who loveth mercy more than sacrifice,
Pardon me if a human soul I prize
Above the gifts upon his altar piled !)
Take what thou askest, and redeem thy
child."

But his hand trembled as the holy alms
He placed within the beggar's eager
palms ;
And as she vanished down the linden
shade,
He bowed his head and for forgiveness
prayed.

So the day passed, and when the twi-
light came
He woke to find the chapel all afame,
And, dumb with grateful wonder, to
behold
Upon the altar candlesticks of gold !

THE EVE OF ELECTION.

From gold to gray
Our mild sweet day
Of Indian Summer fades too soon ;
But tenderly
Above the sea
Hangs, white and calm, the hunter's
moon.

In its pale fire,
The village spire
Shows like the zodiac's spectral lance ;
The painted walls
Whereon it falls
Transfigured stand in marble trance !

O'er fallen leaves
The west-wind grieves,
Yet comes a seed-time round again ;
And morn shall see
The State sown free
With baleful tares or healthful grain.

Along the street
The shadows meet
Of Destiny, whose hands conceal
The moulds of fate
That shape the State,
And make or mar the common weal.

Around I see
The powers that be ;
I stand by Empire's primal springs ;
And princes meet
In every street,
And hear the tread of uncrowned kings !

Hark ! through the crowd
The laugh runs loud,
Beneath the sad, rebuking moon.
God save the land
A careless hand
May shake or swerve ere morrow's noon !

No jest is this ;
One cast amiss
May blast the hope of Freedom's year.
O, take me where
Are hearts of prayer,
And foreheads bowed in reverent fear !

Not lightly fall
Beyond recall
The written scrolls a breath can float ;
The crowning fact
The kingliest act
Of Freedom is the freeman's vote !

For pearls that gem
A diadem
The diver in the deep sea dies ;
The regal right
We boast to-night
Is ours through costlier sacrifice ;

The blood of Vane,
His prison pain
Who traced the path the Pilgrim trod,
And hers whose faith
Drew strength from death,
And prayed her Russell up to God !

Our hearts grow cold,
We lightly hold
A right which brave men died to gain ;
The stake, the cord,
The axe, the sword,
Grim nurses at its birth of pain.

The shadow rend,
And o'er us bend,
O martyrs, with your crowns and
palms,—

Breathe through these throngs
Your battle songs,
Your scaffold prayers, and dungeon
psalms !

Look from the sky,
Like God's great eye,
Thou solemn moon, with searching
beam ;
Till in the sight
Of thy pure light
Our mean self-seekings meaner seem.

Shame from our hearts
Unworthy arts,
The fraud designed, the purpose dark ;
And smite away
The hands we lay
Profanely on the sacred ark.

To party claims
And private aims,
Reveal that august face of Truth,
Whereto are given
The age of heaven,
The beauty of immortal youth.

So shall our voice
Of sovereign choice
Swell the deep bass of duty done,
And strike the key
Of time to be,
When God and man shall speak as one !

THE OVER-HEART.

"For of Him, and through Him, and to
Him are all things, to whom be glory for
ever!" — PAUL.

Above, below, in sky and sod,
In leaf and spar, in star and man,
Well might the wise Athenian scan
The geometric signs of God,
The measured order of his plan.

And India's mystics sang aright
Of the One Life pervading all,—
One Being's tidal rise and fall
In soul and form, in sound and sight,—
Eternal outflow and recall.

God is : and man in guilt and fear
 The central fact of Nature owns ; —
 Kneels, trembling, by his altar-stones,
 And darkly dreams the ghastly smear
 Of blood appeases and atones.

Guilt shapes the Terror : deep within
 The human heart the secret lies
 Of all the hideous deities ;
 And, painted on a ground of sin,
 The fabled gods of torment rise !

And what is He? — The ripe grain nods,
 The sweet dews fall, the sweet flowers
 blow :
 But darker signs his presence show :
 The earthquake and the storm are God's,
 And good and evil interflow.

O hearts of love ! O souls that turn
 Like sunflowers to the pure and best !
 To you the truth is manifest :
 For they the mind of Christ discern
 Who lean like John upon his breast !

I'm him of whom the sibyl told,
 For whom the prophet's harp was
 toned,
 Whose need the sage and magian
 owned,
 The loving heart of God behold,
 The hope for which the ages groaned !

Fade, pomp of dreadful imagery
 Wherewith mankind have deified
 Their hate, and selfishness, and pride !
 Let the scared dreamer wake to see
 The Christ of Nazareth at his side !

What doth that holy Guide require ? —
 No rite of pain, nor gift of blood,
 But man a kindly brotherhood,
 Looking, where duty is desire,
 To him, the beautiful and good.

Gone be the faithlessness of fear,
 And let the pitying heaven's sweet
 rain
 Wash out the altar's bloody stain ;
 The law of Hatred disappear,
 The law of Love alone remain.

How fall the idols false and grim ! —
 And lo ! their hideous wreck above

The emblems of the Lamb and Dove !
 Man turns from God, not God from him ;
 And guilt, in suffering, whispers Love !

The world sits at the feet of Christ,
 Unknowing, blind, and unconsoled ;
 It yet shall touch his garment's fold,
 And feel the heavenly Alchemist
 Transform its very dust to gold.

The theme befitting angel tongues
 Beyond a mortal's scope has grown.
 O heart of mine ! with reverence own
 The fulness which to it belongs,
 And trust the unknown for the known.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPH STURGE.

In the fair land o'erwatched by Ischia's
 mountains,
 Across the charm'd bay
 Whose blue waves keep with Capri's
 silver fountains
 Perpetual holiday,

A king lies dead, his wafer duly eaten,
 His gold-bought masses given ;
 And Rome's great altar smokes with
 gums to sweeten
 Her foulest gift to Heaven.

And while all Naples thrills with mute
 thanksgiving,
 The court of England's queen
 For the dead monster so abhorred while
 living
 In mourning garb is seen.

With a true sorrow God rebukes that
 feigning ;
 By lone Edgbaston's side
 Stands a great city in the sky's sad
 raining,
 Bare-headed and wet-eyed !

Silent for once the restless hive of labor,
 Save the low funeral tread,
 Or voice of craftsman whispering to his
 neighbor
 The good deeds of the dead.

For him no minster's chant of the immortals
 Rose from the lips of sin ;
 No mitred priest swung back the heavenly portals
 To let the white soul in.

But Age and Sickness framed their tearful faces
 In the low hovel's door,
 And prayers went up from all the dark by-places
 And Ghettos of the poor.

The pallid toiler and the negro chattel,
 The vagrant of the street,
 The human dice wherewith in games of battle
 The lords of earth compete,

Touched with a grief that needs no outward draping,
 All swelled the long lament,
 Of grateful hearts, instead of marble,
 shaping His viewless monument !

For never yet, with ritual pomp and splendor,
 In the long heretofore,
 A heart more loyal, warm, and true,
 and tender,
 Has England's turf closed o'er.

And if there fell from out her grand old steeples
 No crash of brazen wail,
 The murmurous woe of kindreds, tongues, and peoples
 Swept in on every gale.

It came from Holstein's birchen-belted meadows,
 And from the tropic calms
 Of Indian islands in the sun-smit shadows
 Of Occidental palms ;

From the locked roadsteads of the Bothnian peasants,
 And harbors of the Finn,
 Where war's worn victims saw his gentle presence
 Come sailing, Christ-like, in,

To seek the lost, to build the old waste places,
 To link the hostile shores
 Of severing seas, and sow with England's daisies
 The moss of Finland's moors.

Thanks for the good man's beautiful example,
 Who in the vilest saw
 Some sacred crypt or altar of a temple
 Still vocal with God's law ;

And heard with tender ear the spirit sighing
 As from its prison cell,
 Praying for pity, like the mournful crying
 Of Jonah out of hell.

Not his the golden pen's or lip's persuasion,
 But a fine sense of right,
 And Truth's directness, meeting each occasion
 Straight as a line of light.

His faith and works, like streams that intermingle,
 In the same channel ran :
 The crystal clearness of an eye kept single
 Shamed all the frauds of man.

The very gentlest of all human natures
 He joined to courage strong,
 And love outreachings unto all God's creatures
 With sturdy hate of wrong.

Tender as woman; manliness and meekness
 In him were so allied
 That they who judged him by his strength or weakness
 Saw but a single side.

Men failed, betrayed him, but his zeal seemed nourished
 By failure and by fall ;
 Still a large faith in human-kind he cherished,
 And in God's love for all.

And now he rests : his greatness and
his sweetness
No more shall seem at strife ;
And death has moulded into calm com-
pleteness
The statue of his life.

Where the dews glisten and the song-
birds warble,
His dust to dust is laid,
In Nature's keeping, with no pomp of
marble
To shame his modest shade.

The forges glow, the hammers all are
ringing;
Beneath its smoky vale,
Hard by, the city of his love is swing-
ing
Its clamorous iron flail.

But round his grave are quietude and
beauty,
And the sweet heaven above,—
The fitting symbols of a life of duty
Transfigured into love !

TRINITAS.

At morn I prayed, "I fain would see
How Three are One, and One is Three ;
Read the dark riddle unto me."

I wandered forth, the sun and air
I saw bestowed with equal care
On good and evil, soul and fair.

No partial favor dropped the rain ; —
Alike the righteous and profane
Rejoiced above their heading grain.

And my heart murmured, " Is it meet
That blindfold Nature thus should treat
With equal hand the tares and wheat ? "

A presence melted through my mood,—
A warmth, a light, a sense of good,
Like sunshine through a winter wood.

I saw that presence, mailed complete
In her white innocence, pause to greet
A fallen sister of the street.

Upon her bosom snowy pure
The lost one clung, as if secure
From inward guilt or outward lure.

" Beware ! " I said ; " in this I see
No gain to her, but loss to thee :
Who touches pitch defiled must be."

I passed the haunts of shame and sin,
And a voice whispered, " Who therein
Shall these lost souls to Heaven's
peace win ?

" Who there shall hope and health dis-
pense,
And lift the ladder up from thence
Whose rounds are prayers of peni-
tence ? "

I said, " No higher life they know ;
These earth-worms love to have it so.
Who stoops to raise them sinks as low."

That night with painful care I read
What Hippo's saint and Calvin said,—
The living seeking to the dead !

In vain I turned, in weary quest,
Old pages, where (God give them rest !)
The poor creed-mongers dreamed and
guessed.

And still I prayed, " Lord, let me see
How Three are One, and One is
Three ;
Read the dark riddle unto me ! "

Then something whispered, " Dost thou
pray
For what thou hast ? This very day
The Holy Three have crossed thy way.

" Did not the gifts of sun and air
To good and ill alike declare
The all-compassionate Father's care ?

" In the white soul that stooped to
raise
The lost one from her evil ways,
Thou saw'st the Christ, whom angels
praise !

" A bodiless Divinity,
The still small Voice that spake to thee
Was the Holy Spirit's mystery !

"O blind of sight, of faith how small !
Father, and Son, and Holy Call ; —
This day thou hast denied them all !

" Revealed in love and sacrifice,
The Holiest passed before thine eyes,
One and the same, in threefold guise.

" The equal Father in rain and sun,
His Christ in the good to evil done,
His Voice in thy soul ; — and the Three
are One ! "

I shut my grave Aquinas fast :
The monkish gloss of ages past,
The schoolman's creed aside I cast.

And my heart answered, " Lord, I see
How Three are One, and One is Three ;
Thy riddle hath been read to me ! "

THE OLD BURYING-GROUND.

OUR vales are sweet with fern and rose,
Our hills are maple-crowned :
But not from them our fathers chose
The village burying-ground.

The dreariest spot in all the land
To Death they set apart :
With scanty grace from Nature's hand,
And none from that of Art.

A winding wall of mossy stone,
Frost-flung and broken, lines
A lonesome acre thinly grown
With grass and wandering vines.

Without the wall a birch-tree shows
Its drooped and tasseled head :
Within, a stag-horned sumach grows,
Fern-leaved, with spikes of red.

There, sheep that graze the neighbor-
ing plain
Like white ghosts come and go,
The farm-horse drags his fetlock chain,
The cow-bell tinkles slow.

Low moans the river from its bed,
The distant pines reply :
Like mourners shrinking from the dead,
They stand apart and sigh.

Unshaded smites the summer sun,
Unchecked the winter blast ;
The school-girl learns the place to shun,
With glances backward cast.

For thus our fathers testified, —
That he might read who ran, —
The emptiness of human pride,
The nothingness of man.

They dared not plant the grave with
flowers,
Nor dress the funeral sod,
Where, with a love as deep as ours,
They left their dead with God.

The hard and thorny path they kept
From beauty turned aside ;
Nor missed they over those who slept
The grace to life denied.

Yet still the wilding flowers would
blow,
The golden leaves would fall,
The seasons come, the seasons go,
And God be good to all.

Above the graves the blackberry hung
In bloom and green its wreath,
And harebells swung as if they rung
The chimes of peace beneath.

The beauty Nature loves to share,
The gifts she hath for all,
The common light, the common air,
O'ercrept the graveyard's wall.

It knew the glow of eventide,
The sunrise and the noon,
And glorified and sanctified
It slept beneath the moon.

With flowers or snow-flakes for its sod,
Around the seasons ran,
And evermore the love of God
Rebuked the fear of man.

We dwell with fears on either hand,
Within a daily strife,
And spectral problems waiting stand
Before the gates of life.

The doubts we vainly seek to solve,
The truths we know, are one ;

The known and nameless stars revolve
Around the Central Sun.

And if we reap as we have sown,
And take the dole we deal,
The law of pain is love alone,
The wounding is to heal.

Unharmed from change to change we
glide,
We fall as in our dreams ;
The far-off terror at our side
A smiling angel seems.

Secure on God's all-tender heart
Alike rest great and small ;
Why fear to lose our little part,
When he is pledged for all ?

O fearful heart and troubled brain ! —
Take hope and strength from this,
That Nature never hints in vain,
Nor prophesies amiss.

Her wild birds sing the same sweet
stave,
Her lights and airs are given
Alike to playground and the grave ;
And over both is Heaven.

THE PIPES AT LUCKNOW.

Pipes of the misty moorlands,
Voice of the glens and hills ;
The droning of the torrents,
The treble of the rills !
Not the braes of broom and heather,
Nor the mountains dark with rain,
Nor maiden bower, nor border tower,
Have heard your sweetest strain !

Dear to the Lowland reaper,
And plaided mountaineer,—
To the cottage and the castle
The Scottish pipes are dear ; —
Sweet sounds the ancient pibroch
O'er mountain, loch, and glade ;
But the sweetest of all music
The Pipes at Lucknow played.

Day by day the Indian tiger
Louder yelled, and nearer crept ;

Round and round the jungle-serpent
Near and nearer circles swept.
“ Pray for rescue, wives and mothers, —
Pray to-day ! ” the soldier said ;
“ To-morrow, death's between us
And the wrong and shame we dread.”

O, they listened, looked, and waited,
Till their hope became despair ;
And the sobs of low bewailing
Filled the pauses of their prayer.
Then up spake a Scottish maiden,
With her ear unto the ground :
“ Dinna ye hear it ? — dinna ye hear it ?
The pipes o' Havelock sound ! ”

Hushed the wounded man his groaning ;
Hushed the wife her little ones ;
Alone they heard the drum-roll
And the roar of Sepoy guns.
But to sounds of home and childhood
The Highland ear was true ; —
As her mother's cradle-crooning
The mountain pipes she knew.

Like the march of soundless music
Through the vision of the seer,
More of feeling than of hearing,
Of the heart than of the ear,
She knew the droning pibroch,
She knew the Campbell's call :
“ Hark ! hear ye no' MacGregor's, —
The grandest o' them all ! ”

O, they listened, dumb and breathless,
And they caught the sound at last ;
Faint and far beyond the Goomtree
Rose and fell the piper's blast !
Then a burst of wild thanksgiving
Mingled woman's voice and man's ;
“ God be praised ! — the march of
Havelock !
The piping of the clans ! ”

Louder, nearer, fierce as vengeance,
Sharp and shrill as swords at strife,
Came the wild MacGregor's clan-call
Stinging all the air to life.
But when the far-off dust-cloud
To plaided legions grew,
Full tenderly and blithesomely
The pipes of rescue blew !

Round the silver domes of Lucknow,
Moslem mosque and Pagan shrine,
Breathed the air to Britons dearest,
The air of Auld Lang Syne.
O'er the cruel roll of war-drums
Rose that sweet and homelike strain ;
And the tartan clove the turban,
As the Goomtee cleaves the plain.

Dear to the corn-land reaper
And plaided mountaineer —
To the cottage and the castle
The piper's song is dear.
Sweet sounds the Gaelic pibroch
O'er mountain, glen, and glade ;
But the sweetest of all music
The Pipes at Lucknow played !

MY PSALM.

I MOURN no more my vanished years :
Beneath a tender rain,
An April rain of smiles and tears,
My heart is young again.

The west-winds blow, and, singing low,
I hear the glad streams run ;
The windows of my soul I throw
Wide open to the sun.

No longer forward nor behind
I look in hope or fear ;
But, grateful, take the good I find,
The best of now and here.

I plough no more a desert land,
To harvest weed and tare ;
The manna dropping from God's hand
Rebukes my painful care.

I break my pilgrim staff, — I lay
Aside the toiling oar ;
The angel sought so far away
I welcome at my door.

The airs of spring may never play
Among the ripening corn,
Nor freshness of the flowers of May
Blow through the autumn morn ;

Yet shall the blue-eyed gentian look
Through fringed lids to heaven,

And the pale aster in the brook
Shall see its image given ; —

The woods shall wear their robes of
praise,
The south-wind softly sigh,
And sweet, calm days in golden haze
Melt down the amber sky.

Not less shall manly deed and word
Rebuke an age of wrong ;
The graven flowers that wreath the
sword
Make not the blade less strong.

But smiting hands shall learn to heal, —
To build as to destroy ;
Nor less my heart for others feel
That I the more enjoy.

All as God wills, who wisely heeds
To give or to withhold,
And knoweth more of all my needs
Than all my prayers have told !

Enough that blessings undeserved
Have marked my erring track ; —
That wheresoe'er my feet have swerved,
His chastening turned me back ; —

That more and more a Providence
Of love is understood,
Making the springs of time and sense
Sweet with eternal good ; —

That death seems but a covered way
Which opens into light,
Wherein no blinded child can stray
Beyond the Father's sight ; —

That care and trial seem at last,
Through Memory's sunset air,
Like mountain-ranges overpast,
In purple distance fair ; —

That all the jarring notes of life
Seem blending in a psalm,
And all the angles of its strife
Slow rounding into calm.

And so the shadows fall apart,
And so the west-winds play ;
And all the windows of my heart
I open to the day.

LE MARAIS DU CYGNE.⁶⁰

A BLUSH as of roses
Where rose never grew !
Great drops on the bunch-grass,
But not of the dew !
A taint in the sweet air
For wild bees to shun !
A stain that shall never
Bleach out in the sun !

Back, steed of the prairies !
Sweet song-bird, fly back !
Wheel hither, bald vulture !
Gray wolf, call thy pack !
The foul human vultures
Have feasted and fled ;
The wolves of the Border
Have crept from the dead.

From the hearths of their cabins,
The fields of their corn,
Unwarned and unweaponed,
The victims were torn,—
By the whirlwind of murder
Swooped up and swept on
To the low, reedy fen-lands,
The Marsh of the Swan.

With a vain plea for mercy
No stout knee was crooked ;
In the mouths of the rifles
Right manly they looked.
How paled the May sunshine,
O Marais du Cygne !
On death for the strong life,
On red grass for green !

In the homes of their rearing,
Yet warm with their lives,
Ye wait the dead only,
Poor children and wives !
Put out the red forge-fire,
The smith shall not come ;
Unyoke the brown oxen,
The ploughman lies dumb.

Wind slow from the Swan's Marsh,
O dreary death-train,
With pressed lips as bloodless
As lips of the slain !
Kiss down the young eyelids,
Smooth down the gray hairs ;

Let tears quench the curses
That burn through your prayers.

Strong man of the prairies,
Mourn bitter and wild !
Wail, desolate woman !
Weep, fatherless child !
But the grain of God springs up
From ashes beneath,
And the crown of his harvest
Is life out of death.

Not in vain on the dial
The shade moves along,
To point the great contrasts
Of right and of wrong :
Free homes and free altars,
Free prairie and flood, —
The reeds of the Swan's Marsh,
Whose bloom is of blood !

On the lintels of Kansas
That blood shall not dry ;
Henceforth the Bad Angel
Shall harmless go by ;
Henceforth to the sunset,
Unchecked on her way,
Shall Liberty follow
The march of the day.

"THE ROCK" IN EL GHOR.

DEAD Petra in her hill-tomb sleeps,
Her stones of emptiness remain ;
Around her sculptured mystery sweeps
The lonely waste of Edom's plain.

From the doomed dwellers in the cleft
The bow of vengeance turns not
back ;
Of all her myriads none are left
Along the Wady Mousa's track.

Clear in the hot Arabian day
Her arches spring, her statues climb ;
Unchanged, the graven wonders pay
No tribute to the spoiler, Time !

Unchanged the awful lithograph
Of power and glory undertröd, —

Of nations scattered like the chaff
Blown from the threshing-floor of
God.

Yet shall the thoughtful stranger turn
From Petra's gates, with deeper awe
To mark afar the burial urn
Of Aaron on the cliffs of Hor ;

And where upon its ancient guard
Thy Rock, El Ghor, is standing yet,—
Looks from its turrets desertward,
And keeps the watch that God has
set.

The same as when in thunders loud
It heard the voice of God to man,—
As when it saw in fire and cloud
The angels walk in Israel's van !

Or when from Ezion-Geber's way
It saw the long procession file,
And heard the Hebrew timbrels play
The music of the lordly Nile ;

Or saw the tabernacle pause,
Cloud-bound, by Kadesh Barnea's
wells,
While Moses graved the sacred laws,
And Aaron swung his golden bells.

Rock of the desert, prophet-sung !
How grew its shadowing pile at
length,
A symbol, in the Hebrew tongue,
Of God's eternal love and strength.

On lip of bard and scroll of seer,
From age to age went down the
name,
Until the Shiloh's promised year,
And Christ, the Rock of Ages, came !

The path of life we walk to-day
Is strange as that the Hebrews trod ;
We need the shadowing rock, as they,—
We need, like them, the guides of
God.

God send his angels, Cloud and Fire,
To lead us o'er the desert sand !
God give our hearts their long desire,
His shadow in a weary land !

ON A PRAYER-BOOK.

WITH ITS FRONTISPIECE, ARY SCHEFFER'S "CHRISTUS CONSOLATOR," AMERICANIZED BY THE OMISSION OF THE BLACK MAN.

O ARY SCHEFFER ! when beneath thine
eye,
Touched with the light that cometh
from above,
Grew the sweet picture of the dear
Lord's love,
No dream hadst thou that Christians
hands would tear
Therefrom the token of his equal care,
And make thy symbol of his truth a
lie !
The poor, dumb slave whose shackles
fall away
In his compassionate gaze, grubbed
smoothly out,
To mar no more the exercise devout
Of sleek oppression kneeling down to
pray
Where the great oriel stains the Sabbath
day !
Let whoso can before such praying-
books
Kneel on his velvet cushion ; I, for
one,
Would sooner bow, a Parsee, to the
sun,
Or tend a prayer-wheel in Thibetan
brooks,
Or beat a drum on Yedo's temple-
floor.
No falser idol man has bowed before,
In Indian groves or islands of the sea,
Than that which through the quaint-
carved Gothic door
Looks forth,— a Church without hu-
manity !
Patron of pride, and prejudice, and
wrong.—
The rich man's charm and fetish of
the strong,
The Eternal Futility meted, clipped,
and shorn,
The seamless robe of equal mercy torn,
The dear Christ hidden from his kin-
dred flesh,
And, in his poor ones, crucified afresh !

Better the simple Lama scattering wide,
 Where sweeps the storm Alechan's
 steppes along,
 His paper horses for the lost to ride,
 And wearying Buddha with his prayers
 to make
 The figures living for the traveller's
 sake,
 Than he who hopes with cheap praise
 to beguile
 The ear of God, dishonoring man the
 while ;
 Who dreams the pearl gate's hinges,
 rusty grown,
 Are moved by flattery's oil of tongue
 alone ;
 That in the scale Eternal Justice bears
 The generous deed weighs less than
 selfish prayers,
 And words intoned with graceful unc-
 tation move
 The Eternal Goodness more than lives
 of truth and love.
 Alas, the Church ! — The reverend
 head of Jay,
 Enhaloed with its saintly silvered
 hair,
 Adorns no more the places of her
 prayer ;
 And brave young Tyng, too early called
 away,
 Troubles the Haman of her courts
 no more
 Like the just Hebrew at the Assyri-
 an's door ;
 And her sweet ritual, beautiful but
 dead
 As the dry husk from which the
 grain is shed,
 And holy hymns from which the life
 devout
 Of saints and martyrs has wellnigh
 gone out,
 Like candles dying in exhausted air,
 For Sabbath use in measured grists
 are ground ;
 And, ever while the spiritual mill
 goes round,
 Between the upper and the nether
 stones,
 Unseen, unheard, the wretched bond-
 man groans,
 And urges his vain plea, prayer-smoth-
 ered, anthem-drowned !

O heart of mine, keep patience ! —
 Looking forth,
 As from the Mount of Vision, I be-
 hold,
 Pure, just, and free, the Church of
 Christ on earth, —
 The martyr's dream, the golden age
 foretold !
 And found, at last, the mystic Graal I
 see,
 Brimmed with His blessing, pass
 from lip to lip
 In sacred pledge of human fellowship ;
 And over all the songs of angels
 hear, —
 Songs of the love that casteth out all
 fear, —
 Songs of the Gospel of Humanity !
 Lo ! in the midst, with the same look
 he wore,
 Healing and blessing on Genesaret's
 shore,
 Folding together, with the all-tender
 might
 Of his great love, the dark hands and
 the white,
 Stands the Consoler, soothing every
 pain,
 Making all burdens light, and breaking
 every chain.

TO J. T. F.

ON A BLANK LEAF OF "POEMS PRINT-
ED, NOT PUBLISHED."

WELL thought ! who would not rather
 hear
 The songs to Love and Friendship
 sung
 Than those which move the stranger's
 tongue,
 And feed his unselected ear ?

Our social joys are more than fame ;
 Life withers in the public look.
 Why mount the pillory of a book,
 Or barter comfort for a name ?

Who in a house of glass would dwell,
 With curious eyes at every pane ?
 To ring him in and out again,
 Who wants the public crier's bell ?

To see the angel in one's way,
Who waits to play the ass's part, —
Bear on his back the wizard Art,
And in his service speak or bray?

And who his manly locks would shave,
And quench the eyes of common sense,
To share the noisy recompense
That mocked the shorn and blinded slave?

The heart has needs beyond the head,
And, starving in the plenitude
Of strange gifts, craves its common food, —
Our human nature's daily bread.

We are but men : no gods are we,
To sit in mid-heaven, cold and bleak,
Each separate, on his painful peak,
Thin-cloaked in self-complacency!

Better his lot whose axe is swung
In Wartburg woods, or that poor girl's
Who by the Ilm her spindle whirls
And sings the songs that Luther sung,

Than his who, old, and cold, and vain,
At Weimar sat, a demigod,
And bowed with Jove's imperial nod
His votaries in and out again !

Ply, Vanity, thy wingéd feet !
Ambition, hew thy rocky stair !
Who envies him who feeds on air
The icy splendor of his seat ?

I see your Alps, above me, cut
The dark, cold sky ; and dim and lone
I see ye sitting, — stone on stone, —
With human senses dulled and shut.

I could not reach you, if I would,
Nor sit among your cloudy shapes ;
And (spare the fable of the grapes
And fox) I would not if I could.

Keep to your lofty pedestals !
The safer plain below I choose :
Who never wins can rarely lose,
Who never climbs as rarely falls.

Let such as love the eagle's scream
Divide with him his home of ice :

For me shall gentler notes suffice, —
The valley-song of bird and stream ;

The pastoral bleat, the drone of bees,
The flail-beat chiming far away,
The cattle-low, at shut of day,
The voice of God in leaf and breeze !

Then lend thy hand, my wiser friend,
And help me to the vales below,
(In truth, I have not far to go,)
Where sweet with flowers the fields extend.

THE PALM-TREE.

Is it the palm, the cocoa-palm,
On the Indian Sea, by the isles of balm ?
Or is it a ship in the breezeless calm ?

A ship whose keel is of palm beneath,
Whose ribs of palm have a palm-bark sheath,
And a rudder of palm it steereth with.

Branches of palm are its spars and rails,
Fibres of palm are its woven sails,
And the rope is of palm that idly trails !

What does the good ship bear so well?
The cocoa-nut with its stony shell,
And the milky sap of its inner cell.

What are its jars, so smooth and fine,
But hollowed nuts, filled with oil and wine,
And the cabbage that ripens under the Line ?

Who smokes his nargileh, cool and calm ?
The master, whose cunning and skill
could charm
Cargo and ship from the bounteous palm.

In the cabin he sits on a palm-mat soft,
From a beaker of palm his drink is quaffed,
And a palm-thatch shields from the sun aloft !

His dress is woven of palmy strands,
And he holds a palm-leaf scroll in his
hands,
Traced with the Prophet's wise com-
mands !

The turban folded about his head
Was daintily wrought of the palm-leaf
braid,
And the fan that cools him of palm was
made.

Cf threads of palm was the carpet spun
Whereon he kneels when the day is
done,
And the foreheads of Islam are bowed
as one !

To him the palm is a gift divine,
Wherein all uses of man combine,—
House, and raiment, and food, and
wine !

And, in the hour of his great release,
His need of the palm shall only cease
With the shroud wherein he lieth in
peace.

“Allah il Allah !” he sings his psalm,
On the Indian Sea, by the isles of
balm ;
“Thanks to Allah who gives the
palm !”

LINES,

**READ AT THE BOSTON CELEBRATION
OF THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF ROBERT BURNS,
25TH 1ST MO., 1859.**

How sweetly come the holy psalms
From saints and martyrs down.
The waving of triumphal palms
Above the thorny crown !
The choral praise, the chanted prayers
From harps by angels strung,
The hunted Cameron's mountain airs,
The hymns that Luther sung !

Yet, jarring not the heavenly notes,
The sounds of earth are heard,

As through the open minster floats
The song of breeze and bird !
Not less the wonder of the sky
That daisies bloom below ;
The brook sings on, though loud and
high
The cloudy organs blow !

And, if the tender ear be jarred
That, haply, hears by turns
The saintly harp of Olney's bard,
The pastoral pipe of Burns,
No discord mars His perfect plan
Who gave them both a tongue ;
For he who sings the love of man
The love of God hath sung !

To-day be every fault forgiven
Of him in whom we joy !
We take, with thanks, the gold of
Heaven
And leave the earth's alloy.
Be ours his music as of spring,
His sweetness as of flowers,
The songs the bard himself might sing
In holier ears than ours.

Sweet airs of love and home, the hum
Of household melodies,
Come singing, as the robins come
To sing in door-yard trees.
And, heart to heart, two nations lean,
No rival wreaths to twine,
But blending in eternal green
The holly and the pine !

THE RED RIVER VOYAGEUR.

Out and in the river is winding
The links of its long, red chain
Through belts of dusky pine-land
And gusty leagues of plain.

Only, at times, a smoke-wreath
With the drifting cloud-rack joins, —
The smoke of the hunting-lodges
Of the wild Assiniboins !

Drearly blows the north-wind
From the land of ice and snow ;
The eyes that look are weary,
And heavy the hands that row.

And with one foot on the water,
And one upon the shore,
The Angel of Shadow gives warning
That day shall be no more.

Is it the clang of wild-geese?
Is it the Indian's yell,
That lends to the voice of the north-wind
The tones of a far-off bell?

The voyageur smiles as he listens
To the sound that grows apace;
Well he knows the vesper ringing
Of the bells of St. Boniface.

The bells of the Roman Mission,
That call from their turrets twain,
To the boatman on the river,
To the hunter on the plain!

Even so in our mortal journey
The bitter north-winds blow,
And thus upon life's Red River
Our hearts, as oarsmen, row.

And when the Angel of Shadow
Rests his feet on wave and shore,
And our eyes grow dim with watching
And our hearts faint at the oar,

Happy is he who heareth
The signal of his release
In the bells of the Holy City,
The chimes of eternal peace!

KENOZA LAKE.

As Adam did in Paradise,
To-day the primal right we claim:
Fair mirror of the woods and skies,
We give to thee a name.

Lake of the pickerel! — let no more
The echoes answer back, "Great Pond,"
But sweet Kenoza, from thy shore
And watching hills beyond,

Let Indian ghosts, if such there be
Who ply unseen their shadowy lines,
Call back the ancient name to thee,
As with the voice of pines.

The shores we trod as barefoot boys,
The nutted woods we wandered through,
To friendship, love, and social joys
We consecrate anew.

Here shall the tender song be sung,
And memory's dirges soft and low,
And wit shall sparkle on the tongue,
And mirth shall overflow,

Harmless as summer lightning plays
From a low, hidden cloud by night,
A light to set the hills ablaze,
But not a bolt to smite.

In sunny South and prairied West
Are exiled hearts remembering still,
As bees their hive, as birds their nest,
The homes of Haverhill.

They join us in our rites to-day;
And, listening, we may hear, ere long,
From inland lake and ocean bay,
The echoes of our song.

Kenoza! o'er no sweeter lake
Shall morning break or noon-cloud sail,—
No fairer face than thine shall take
The sunset's golden veil.

Long be it ere the tide of trade
Shall break with harsh-resounding din
The quiet of thy banks of shade,
And hills that fold thee in.

Still let thy woodlands hide the hare,
The shy loon sound his trumpet-note,
Wing-weary from his fields of air,
The wild-goose on thee float.

Thy peace rebuke our feverish stir,
Thy beauty our deforming strife;
Thy woods and waters minister
The healing of their life.

And sinless Mirth, from care released,
Behold, unawed, thy mirrored sky,
Smiling as smiled on Cana's feast
The Master's loving eye.

And when the summer day grows dim,
And light mists walk thy mimic sea,
Revive in us the thought of Him
Who walked on Galilee !

TO G. B. C.

So spake Esaias : so, in words of flame,
Tekoa's prophet-berdsman smote with
blame
The traffickers in men, and put to shame,
All earth and heaven before,
The sacerdotal robbers of the poor.

All the dread Scripture lives for thee
again,
To smite like lightning on the hands
profane
Lifted to bless the slave-whip and the
chain.
Once more th' old Hebrew tongue
Bends with the shafts of Col a bow
new-strung !

Take up the mantle which the prophets
wore ;
Warn with their warnings, — show the
Christ once more
Bound, scourged, and crucified in his
blameless poor ;
And shake above our land
The unquenched bolts that blazed in
Hosea's hand !

Not vainly shalt thou cast upon our
years
The solemn burdens of the Orient seers.
And smite with truth a guilty nation's
ears.
Mightier was Luther's word
Than Seckingen's mailed arm or Hux-
ton's sword !

THE SISTERS.

A PICTURE BY BARRY.

The shade for me, but over thee
The lingering sunshine still ;
As, smiling, to the silent stream
Comes down the singing rill,

So come to me, my little one, —
My years with thee I share,
And mingle with a sister's love
A mother's tender care.

But keep the smile upon thy lip,
The trust upon thy brow ;
Since for the dear one God hath called
We have an angel now.

Our mother from the fields of heaven
Shall still her ear incline :
Nor need we fear her human love
Is less for love divine.

The songs are sweet they sing beneath
The trees of life so fair,
But sweetest of the songs of heaven
Shall be her children's prayer.

Then, darling, rest upon my breast,
And teach my heart to lean
With thy sweet trust upon the arm
Which folds us both unseen !

LINES,

FOR THE AGRICULTURAL AND HORTI-
CULTURAL EXHIBITION AT AMES-
BURY AND SALISBURY, SEPT. 28,
1858.

THIS day, two hundred years ago,
The wild grape by the river's side,
And tasteless groundnut trailing low
The table of the woods supplied.

Unknown the apple's red and gold,
The blushing tint of peach and pear,
The mirror of the Powow told
No tale of orchards ripe and rare.

Wild as the fruits he scorned to till,
These vales the idle Indian trod ;
Nor knew the glad, creative skill, —
The joy of him who toils with God.

O Painter of the fruits and flowers !
We thank thee for thy wise design
Whereby these human hands of ours
In Nature's garden work with thine

And thanks that from our daily need
The joy of simple faith is born ;
That he who smites the summer weed,
May trust thee for the autumn corn.

Give fools their gold, and knaves their power ;
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall ;
Who sows a field, or trains a flower,
Or plants a tree, is more than all.

For he who blesses most is blest ;
And God and man shall own his worth
Who toils to leave as his bequest
An added beauty to the earth.

And, soon or late, to all that sow,
The time of harvest shall be given ;
The flower shall bloom, the fruit shall grow,
If not on earth, at last in heaven !

THE PREACHER.

Its windows flashing to the sky,
Beneath a thousand roofs of brown,
Far down the vale, my friend and I
Beheld the old and quiet town ;
The ghostly sails that out at sea
Flapped their white wings of mystery ;
The beaches glimmering in the sun,
And the low wooded capes that run
Into the sea-mist north and south ;
The sand-bluffs at the river's mouth ;
The swinging chain-bridge, and, afar,
The foam-line of the harbor-bar.

Over the woods and meadow-lands
A crimson-tinted shadow lay
Of clouds through which the setting day
Flung a slant glory far away.
It glittered on the wet sea-sands,
It flamed upon the city's panes,
Smote the white sails of ships that wore
Outward or in, and glided o'er
The steeples with their veering vanes !

Awhile my friend with rapid search
O'erran the landscape. "Yonder spire

Over gray roofs, a shaft of fire ;
What is it, pray ?" — " The Whitfield Church !

Walled about by its basement stones,
There rest the marvellous prophet bones."

Then as our homeward way we walked
Of the great preacher's life we talked ;
And through the mystery of our them
The outward glory seemed to stream,
And Nature's self interpreted
The doubtful record of the dead ;
And every level beam that smote
The sails upon the dark afloat
A symbol of the light became
Which touched the shadows of blame
With tongues of Pentecostal flame.

Over the roofs of the pioneers
Gathers the moss of a hundred years ;
On man and his works has passed the change
Which needs must be in a century range.

The land lies open and warm in the sun
Anvils clamor and mill-wheels run, —
Flocks on the hillsides, herds on the plain,
The wilderness gladdened with fruit
and grain !
But the living faith of the settlers old
A dead profession their children hold ;
To the lust of office and greed of trade
A stepping-stone is the altar made.
The Church, to place and power the door,

Rebukes the sin of the world no more.
Nor sees its Lord in the homeless poor
Everywhere is the grasping hand,
And eager adding of land to land ;
And earth, which seemed to the fathers meant

But as a pilgrim's wayside tent, —
A nightly shelter to fold away
When the Lord should call at the break of day, —
Solid and steadfast seems to be,
And Time has forgotten Eternity !

But fresh and green from the rotting roots
Of primal forests the young growth shoots ;

om the death of the old the new pro-
ceeds,
ad the life of truth from the rot of
creeds :
the ladder of God, which upward
leads,
he steps of progress are human needs.
his judgments still are a mighty
deep,
d the eyes of his providence never
sleep :
hen the night is darkest he gives the
morn :
hen the famine is sorest, the wine
and corn !

the church of the wilderness Ed-
wards wrought,
aping his creed at the forge of
thought ;
nd with Thor's own hammer welded
and bent
he iron links of his argument,
which strove to grasp in its mighty span
the purpose of God and the fate of man !
et faithful still, in his daily round
o the weak, and the poor, and sin-sick
found,
the schoolman's lore and the casuist's
art
Drew warmth and life from his fervent
heart.
Had he not seen in the solitudes
Of his deep and dark Northampton
woods
A vision of love about him fall ?
Not the blinding splendor which fell on
Saul,
But the tenderer glory that rests on
them
Who walk in the New Jerusalem,
Where never the sun nor moon are
known,
But the Lord and his love are the light
alone !
And watching the sweet, still coun-
tenance
Of the wife of his bosom rapt in trance.
Had he not treasured each broken word
Of the mystical wonder seen and heard;
And loved the beautiful dreamer more
That thus to the desert of earth she
bore
Clusters of Eschol from Canaan's shore?

As the barley-winnowing, holding with
pain
Aloft in waiting his chaff and grain,
Joyfully welcomes the far-off breeze
Sounding the pine-tree's slender keys,
So he who had waited long to hear
The sound of the Spirit drawing near,
Like that which the son of Iddo heard
When the feet of angels the myrtles
stirred,
Felt the answer of prayer, at last,
As over his church the afflatus passed,
Breaking its sleep as breezes break
To sun-bright ripples a stagnant lake.

At first a tremor of silent fear,
The creep of the flesh at danger near,
A vague foreboding and discontent,
Over the hearts of the people went.
All nature warned in sounds and signs :
The wind in the tops of the forest pines
In the name of the Highest called to
prayer,
As the muezzin calls from the minaret
stair.
Through ceiled chambers of secret sin
Sudden and strong the light shone in ;
A guilty sense of his neighbor's needs
Startled the man of title-deeds ;
The trembling hand of the worldling
shook
The dust of years from the Holy Book ;
And the psalms of David, forgotten
long,
Took the place of the scoffer's song.

The impulse spread like the outward
course
Of waters moved by a central force :
The tide of spiritual life rolled down
From inland mountains to seaboard
town.

Prepared and ready the altar stands
Waiting the prophet's outstretched
hands
And prayer availing, to downward call
The fiery answer in view of all.
Hearts are like wax in the furnace, who
Shall mould, and shape, and cast them
anew ?
Lo ! by the Merrimack WHITEFIELD
stands
In the temple that never was made by
hands, —

Curtains of azure, and crystal wall,
And dome of the sunshine over all ! —
A homeless pilgrim, with dubious name
Blown about on the winds of fame ;
Now as an angel of blessing classed,
And now as a mad enthusiast.
Called in his youth to sound and gauge
The moral lapse of his race and age,
And, sharp as truth, the contrast draw
Of human frailty and perfect law ;
Possessed by the one dread thought
that lent
Its goad to his fiery temperament,
Up and down the world he went,
A John the Baptist crying, — Repent !

No perfect whole can our nature make ;
Here or there the circle will break ;
The orb of life as it takes the light
On one side leaves the other in night.
Never was saint so good and great
As to give no chance at St. Peter's gate
For the plea of the Devil's advocate.
So, incomplete by his being's law,
The marvellous preacher had his flaw :
With step unequal, and lame with faults,
His shade on the path of History halts.

Wisely and well said the Eastern bard ;
Fear is easy, but love is hard, —
Easy to glow with the Santon's rage,
And walk on the Meccan pilgrimage ;
But he is greatest and best who can
Worship Allah by loving man.

Thus he, — to whom, in the painful
stress
Of zeal on fire from its own excess,
Heaven seemed so vast and earth so
small
That man was nothing, since God was
all, —
Forgot, as the best at times have done,
That the love of the Lord and of man
are one.

Little to him whose feet unshod
The thorny path of the desert trod,
Careless of pain, so it led to God,
Seemed the hunger-pang and the poor
man's wrong,
The weak ones trodden beneath the
strong.

Should the worm be chooser ? — the
clay withstand
The shaping will of the potter's hand ?

In the Indian fable Arjoon hears
The scorn of a god rebuke his fears :
“ Spare thy pity ! ” Krishna saith ;
“ Not in thy sword is the power of
death !
All is illusion, — loss but seems ;
Pleasure and pain are only dreams ;
Who deems he slayeth doth not kill ;
Who counts as slain is living still.
Strike, nor fear thy blow is crime ;
Nothing dies but the cheats of time ;
Slain or slayer, small the odds
To each, immortal as Indra's gods ! ”

So by Savannah's banks of shade,
The stones of his mission the preacher
laid
On the heart of the negro crushed and
rent,
And made of his blood the wall's com-
ment ;
Bade the slave-ship speed from coast to
coast
Fanned by the wings of the Holy Ghost ;
And begged, for the love of Christ, the
gold
Coined from the hearts in its groaning
hold.
What could it matter, more or less
Of stripes, and hunger, and weariness ?
Living or dying, bond or free,
What was time to eternity ?

Alas for the preacher's cherished
schemes !
Mission and church are now but dreams ;
Nor prayer nor fasting availed the plan
To honor God through the wrong of
man.

Of all his labors no trace remains
Save the bondman lifting his hands in
chains.
The woof he wove in the righteous warp
Of freedom-loving Oglethorpe,
Clothes with curses the goodly land,
Changes its greenness and bloom to sand ;
And a century's lapse reveals once more
The slave-ship stealing to Georgia's
shore.

Father of Light ! how blind is he
Who sprinkles the altar he rears to Thee
With the blood and tears of humanity !

He erred : Shall we count his gifts as
naught ?
Was the work of God in him unwrought ?
The servant may through his deafness
err,

And blind may be God's messenger ;
But the errand is sure they go upon, —
The word is spoken, the deed is done.
Was the Hebrew temple less fair and
good

That Solomon bowed to gods of wood ?
For his tempted heart and wandering
feet,

Were the songs of David less pure and
sweet ?
So in light and shadow the preacher
went,

God's erring and human instrument ;
And the hearts of the people where he
passed

Swayed as the reeds sway in the blast,
Under the spell of a voice which took
In its compass the flow of Siloa's brook,
And the mystical chime of the bells of
gold

On the ephod's hem of the priest of old, —
Now the roll of thunder, and now the awe
Of the trumpet heard in the Mount of
Law.

A solemn fear on the listening crowd
Fell like the shadow of a cloud.
The sailor reeling from out the ships
Whose masts stood thick in the river-slip

Felt the jest and the curse die on his
lips.

Listened the fisherman rude and hard,
The calker rough from the builder's
yard,

The man of the market left his load,
The teamster leaned on his bending
goad,

The maiden, and youth beside her, felt
Their hearts in a closer union melt,
And saw the flowers of their love in
bloom

Down the endless vistas of life to come.
Old age sat feebly brushing away
From his ears the scanty locks of gray ;

And careless boyhood, living the free
Unconscious life of bird and tree,
Suddenly wakened to a sense
Of sin and its guilty consequence.
It was as if an angel's voice
Called the listeners up for their final
choice :

As if a strong hand rent apart
The veils of sense from soul and heart,
Showing in light ineffable
The joys of heaven and woes of hell !
All about in the misty air
The hills seemed kneeling in silent
prayer ;

The rustle of leaves, the moaning sedge
The water's lap on its gravelled edge,
The wailing pines, and, far and faint,
The wood-dove's note of sad complaint, —

To the solemn voice of the preacher
lent

An undertone as of low lament ;
And the roar of the sea from its sandy
coast,
On the easterly wind, now heard, now
lost,
Seemed the murmurous sound of the
judgment host.

Yet wise men doubted, and good men
wept,

As that storm of passion above them
wept,

And, comet-like, adding flame to flame,
The priests of the new Evangel came, —
Davenport, flashing upon the crowd,
Charged like summer's electric cloud,
Now holding the listener still as death
With terrible warnings under oreath.

Now shouting for joy, as if he viewed
The vision of Heaven's beatitude !

And Celtic Tenant, his long coat
bound

Like a monk's with leathern girdle
round,

Wild with the toss of unshorn hair,
And wringing of hands, and eyes aglare,
Groaning under the world's despair !
Grave pastors, grieving their flocks to
lose,

Prophesied to the empty pews
That gourds would wither, and mush-
rooms die,

And noisiest fountains run soonest dry,

Like the spring that gushed in Newbury Street,
Under the tramp of the earthquake's feet,

A silver shaft in the air and light,
For a single day, then lost in night,
Leaving only, its place to tell,
Sandy fissure and sulphurous smell.
With zeal wing-clipped and white-heat cool,

Moved by the spirit in grooves of rule,
No longer harried, and cropped, and fleeced,

Flogged by sheriff and cursed by priest,
But by wiser counsels left at ease
To settle quietly on his lees,
And, self-concentred, to count as done
The work which his fathers scarce began,

In silent protest of letting alone,
The Quaker kept the way of his own,—
A non-conductor among the wires,
With coat of asbestos proof to fires.
And quite unable to mend his pace
To catch the falling manna of grace,
He hugged the closer his little store
Of faith, and silently prayed for more.
And vague of creed and barren of rite,
But holding, as in his Master's sight,
Act and thought to the inner light,
The round of his simple duties walked,
And strove to live what the other stalked.

And who shall marvel if evil went
Step by step with the good intent,
And with love and meekness, side by side,

Lust of the flesh and spiritual pride?—
That passionate longings and fancies vain

Set the heart on fire and crazed the brain?—

That over the holy oracles
Folly sported with cap and bells?—
That goodly women and learned men
Marvelling told with tongue and pen
How unweaned children chirped like birds

Texts of Scripture and solemn words,
Like the infant seers of the rocky glens
In the Puy de Dome of wild Cévennes:
Or baby Lamas who pray and preach
From Tartar cradles in Buddha's speech?

In the war which Truth or Freedom wages
With impious fraud and the wrong of ages

Hate and malice and self-love mar
The notes of triumph with painful jar,
And the helping angels turn aside
Their sorrowing faces the shame to hide.
Never on custom's oiled grooves
The world to a higher level moves,
But grates and grinds with friction hard
On granite boulder and flinty shard.
The heart must bleed before it feels,
The pool be troubled before it heals;
Ever by losses the right must gain,
Every good have its birth of pain;
The active Virtues blush to find
The Vices wearing their badge behind,
And Graces and Charities feel the fire
Wherein the sins of the age expire;
The fiend still rends as of old he rent
The tortured body from which he went.

But Time tests all. In the over-drift
And flow of the Nile, with its annual gift,

Who cares for the Hadji's relics sunk?
Who thinks of the drowned-out Coptic monk?

The tide that loosens the temple-stones,

And scatters the sacred ibis-bones,
Drives away from the valley-land
That Arab robber, the wandering sand,
Moistens the fields that know no rain,
Fringes the desert with belts of grain,
And bread to the sower brings again.
So the flood of emotion deep and strong

Troubled the land as it swept along,
But left a result of holier lives,
Tenderer mothers and worthier wives.
The husband and father whose children fled

And sad wife wept when his drunken tread
Frightened peace from his roof-tree's shade,

And a rock of offence his hearthstone made,
In a strength that was not his own, began
To rise from the brute's to the plane of man.

Old friends embraced, long held apart
 By evil counsel and pride of heart ;
 And penitence saw through misty tears,
 In the bow of hope on its cloud of fears,
 The promise of Heaven's eternal
 years, —
 The peace of God for the world's annoy, —
 Beauty for ashes, and oil of joy !

Under the church of Federal Street,
 Under the tread of its Sabbath feet,
 Walled about by its basement stones,
 Lie the marvellous preacher's bones.
 No saintly honors to them are shown,
 No sign nor miracle have they known ;
 But he who passes the ancient church
 Stops in the shade of its belfry-porch,
 And ponders the wonderful life of him
 Who lies at rest in that charnel dim.
 Long shall the traveller strain his eye
 From the railroad car, as it plunges by,
 And the vanishing town behind him
 search
 For the slender spire of the Whitefield
 Church ;
 And feel for one moment the ghosts of
 trade,
 And fashion, and folly, and pleasure
 laid,
 By the thought of that life of pure in-
 tent,
 That voice of warning yet eloquent,
 Of one on the errands of angels sent.
 And if where he labored the flood of sin
 Like a tide from the harbor-bar sets in,
 And over a life of time and sense
 The church-spires lift their vain de-
 fence,
 As if to scatter the bolts of God
 With the points of Calvin's thunder-
 rod, —
 Still, as the gem of its civic crown,
 Precious beyond the world's renown,
 His memory hallows the ancient town !

THE QUAKER ALUMNI.⁷⁰

From the well-springs of Hudson, the
 sea-cliffs of Maine,
 Grave men, sober matrons, you gather
 again ;

And, with hearts warmer grown as
 your heads grow more cool,
 Play over the old game of going to
 school.

All your strifes and vexations, your
 whims and complaints,
 (You were not saints yourselves, if the
 children of saints !)

All your petty self-seeking and rival-
 ries done,
 Round the dear Alma Mater your
 hearts beat as one !

How widely soe'er you have strayed
 from the fold,
 Though your "thee" has grown "you,"
 and your drab blue and gold,
 To the old friendly speech and the
 garb's sober form,
 Like the heart of Argyle to the tartan,
 you warm.

But, the first greetings over, you glance
 round the hall ;
 Your hearts call the roll, but they an-
 swer not all :
 Through the turf green above them the
 dead cannot hear ;
 Name by name, in the silence, falls sad
 as a tear !

In love, let us trust, they were sum-
 moned so soon
 From the morning of life, while we toil
 through its noon ;
 They were frail like ourselves, they had
 needs like our own,
 And they rest as we rest in God's
 mercy alone.

Unchanged by our changes of spirit
 and frame,
 Past, now, and henceforward the Lord
 is the same ;
 Though we sink in the darkness, his
 arms break our fall,
 And in death as in life, he is Father of
 all !

We are older : our footsteps, so light in
 the play
 Of the far-away school-time, move
 slower to-day ; —

Here a beard touched with frost, there
a bald, shining crown,
And beneath the cap's border gray
mingles with brown.

But faith should be cheerful, and trust
should be glad,
And our follies and sins, not our years,
make us sad.
Should the heart closer shut as the
bonnet grows prim,
And the face grow in length as the hat
grows in brim?

Life is brief, duty grave ; but, with rain-
folded wings,
Of yesterday's sunshine the grateful
heart sings ;
And we, of all others, have reason to
pay
The tribute of thanks, and rejoice on
our way :

For the counsels that turned from the
follies of youth ;
For the beauty of patience, the white-
ness of truth ;
For the wounds of rebuke, when love
tempered its edge ;
For the household's restraint, and the
discipline's hedge ;

For the lessons of kindness vouchsafed
to the least
Of the creatures of God, whether hu-
man or beast,
Bringing hope to the poor, lending
strength to the frail,
In the lanes of the city, the slave-hut,
and jail ;

For a womanhood higher and holier,
by all
Her knowledge of good, than was Eve
ere her fall, —
Whose task-work of duty moves light-
ly as play,
Serene as the moonlight and warm as
the day ;

And, yet more, for the faith which em-
braces the whole,
Of the creeds of the ages the life and
the soul,

Wherein letter and spirit the same
channel run,
And man has not severed what God
has made one !

For a sense of the Goodness revealed
everywhere,
As sunshine impartial, and free as the
air ;
For a trust in humanity, Heathen or
Jew,
And a hope for all darkness The Light
shineth through.

Who scoffs at our birthright? — the
words of the seers,
And the songs of the bards in the twi-
light of years,
All the foregleams of wisdom in san-
ton and sage,
In prophet and priest, are our true
heritage.

The Word which the reason of Pho
discerned ;
The truth, as whose symbol the Mithra-
fire burned ;
The soul of the world which the Stoic
but guessed,
In the Light Universal the Quaker
confessed !

No honors of war to our worthies be-
long ;
Their plain stem of life never flowered
into song ;
But the fountains they opened still
gush by the way,
And the world for their healing is bet-
ter to-day.

He who lies where the minster's
groined arches curve down
To the tomb-crowded transept of Eng-
land's renown,
The glorious essayist, by genius en-
throned,
Whose pen as a sceptre the Muses all
owned, —

Who through the world's pantheon
walked in his pride,
Setting new statues up, thrusting old
ones aside,

And in fiction the pencils of history
dipped,
To gild o'er or blacken each saint in
his crypt, —

How vainly he labored to sully with
blame
The white bust of Penn, in the niche
of his fame !
Self-will is self-wounding, perversity
blind :
On himself fell the stain for the Quaker
designed !

For the sake of his true-hearted father
before him ;
For the sake of the dear Quaker mother
that bore him ;
For the sake of his gifts, and the works
that outlive him,
And his brave words for freedom, we
freely forgive him !

There are those who take note that our
numbers are small, —
New Gibbons who write our decline
and our fall ;
But the Lord of the seed-field takes
care of his own,
And the world shall yet reap what our
sowers have sown.

The last of the sect to his fathers may
go,
Leaving only his coat for some Bar-
num to show ;
But the truth will outlive him, and
broaden with years,
Till the false dies away, and the wrong
disappears.

Nothing fails of its end. Out of sight
sinks the stone,
In the deep sea of time, but the circles
sweep on,
Till the low-rippled murmurs along the
shores run,
And the dark and dead waters leap
glad in the sun.

Meanwhile shall we learn, in our ease,
to forget
To the martyrs of Truth and of Free-
dom our debt ? —

Hide their words out of sight, like the
garb that they wore,
And for Barclay's Apology offer one
more ?

Shall we fawn round the priestcraft
that glutted the shears,
And festooned the stocks with our
grandfathers' ears ? —
Talk of Woolman's unsoundness ? —
And take Cotton Mather in place of
George Fox ? —

Make our preachers war-chaplains ? —
quote Scripture to take
The hunted slave back, for Onesimus'
sake ? —
Go to burning church - candles, and
chanting in choir,
And on the old meeting-house stick
up a spire ?

No ! the old paths we'll keep until
better are shown, —
Credit good where we find it, abroad
or our own ;
And while "Lo here" and "Lo there"
the multitude call,
Be true to ourselves, and do justice to
all.

The good round about us we need not
refuse,
Nor talk of our Zion as if we were
Jews ;
But why shirk the badge which our
fathers have worn,
Or beg the world's pardon for having
been born ?

We need not pray over the Pharisee's
prayer,
Nor claim that our wisdom is Benja-
min's share.
Truth to us and to others is equal and
one :
Shall we bottle the free air, or hoard up
the sun ?

Well know we our birthright may serve
but to show
How the meanest of weeds in the
richest soil grow ;

But we need not disparage the good
which we hold ;
Though the vessels be earthen, the
treasure is gold !

Enough and too much of the sect and
the name.
What matters our label, so truth be
our aim ?
The creed may be wrong, but the life
may be true,
And hearts beat the same under drab
coats or blue.

So the man ~~is~~ a man, let him worship,
at will,
In Jerusalem's courts, or on Gerizim's
hill.
When she makes up her jewels, what
cares you good town
For the Baptist of WAYLAND, the
Quaker of BROWN ?

And this green, favored island, so fresh
and sea-blown,
When she counts up the worthies her
annals have known,
Never waits for the pitiful gaugers of
sect
To measure her love, and mete out her
respect.

Three shades at this moment seem
walking her strand,
Each with head halo-crowned, and
with palms in his hand, —
Wise Berkeley, grave Hopkins, and,
smiling serene
On prelate and puritan, Channing is
seen.

One holy name bearing, no longer they
need
Credentials of party, and pass-words of
creed :
The new song they sing hath a three-
fold accord,
And they own one baptism, one faith,
and one Lord !

But the golden sands run out : occa-
sions like these
Glide swift into shadow, like sails on
the seas ?

While we sport with the mosses and
pebbles ashore,
They lessen and fade, and we see them
no more.

Forgive me, dear friends, if my vagrant
thoughts seem
Like a school-boy's who idles and
plays with his theme.
Forgive the light measure whose
changes display
The sunshine and rain of our brief
April day.

There are moments in life when the lip
and the eye
Try the question of whether to smile
or to cry ;
And scenes and reunions that prompt
like our own
The tender in feeling, the playful in tone.
I, who never sat down with the boys
and the girls
At the feet of your Slocums, and Cart-
lands, and Earles, —
By courtesy only permitted to lay
On your festival's altar my poor gift,
to-day, —

I would joy in your joy : let me have a
friend's part
In the warmth of your welcome of
hand and of heart, —
On your play-ground of boyhood un-
bend the brow's care,
And shift the old burdens our shoulders
must bear.

Long live the good School ! giving out
year by year
Recruits to true manhood and woman-
hood dear :
Brave boys, modest maidens, in beauty
sent forth,
The living epistles and proof of its
worth !

In and out let the young life as steadily
flow
As in broad Narragansett the tides
come and go ;
And its sons and its daughters in prairie
and town
Remember its honor, and guard its re-
nown.

Not vainly the gift or its founder was
made ;
Not prayerless the stones of its corner
were laid :
The blessing of Him whom in secret
they sought
Has owned the good work which the
fathers have wrought.

To Him be the glory forever ! — We
bear
To the Lord of the Harvest our wheat
with the tare.
What we lack in our work may He find
in our will,
And winnow in mercy our good from
the ill !

BROWN OF OSSAWATOMIE.

JOHN BROWN OF OSSAWATOMIE spake on his dying day :
" I will not have to shrieve my soul a priest in Slavery's pay.
But let some poor slave-mother whom I have striven to free,
With her children, from the gallows-stair put up a prayer for me ! "

John Brown of Ossawatomie, they led him out to die ;
And lo ! a poor slave-mother with her little child pressed nigh.
Then the bold, blue eye grew tender, and the old harsh face grew mild,
As he stooped between the jeering ranks and kissed the negro's child !

The shadows of his stormy life that moment fell apart ;
And they who blamed the bloody hand forgave the loving heart.
That kiss from all its guilty means redeemed the good intent,
And round the grisly fighter's hair the martyr's aureole bent !

Perish with him the folly that seeks through evil good !
Long live the generous purpose unstained with human blood !
Not the raid of midnight terror, but the thought which underlies ;
Not the borderer's pride of daring, but the Christian's sacrifice.

Nevermore may yon Blue Ridges the Northern rifle hear,
Nor see the light of blazing homes flash on the negro's spear.
But let the free-winged angel Truth their guarded passes scale,
To teach that right is more than might, and justice more than mal !

So vainly shall Virginia set her battle in array ;
In vain her trampling squadrons knead the winter snow with clay.
She may strike the pouncing eagle, but she dares not harm the dove ;
And every gate she bars to Hate shall open wide to Love !

FROM PERUGIA.

" The thing which has the most dissevered the people from the Pope, — the *unforgivable* thing, — the breaking point between him and them, — has been the encouragement and promotion he gave to the officer under whom were executed the *slaughters* of Perugia. That made the breaking point in many honest hearts that had clung to him before." — *Harriet Beecher Stowe's " Letters from Italy."*

The tall, sallow guardsmen their horse-tails have spread,
Flaming out in their violet, yellow, and red ;

And behind go the lackeys in crimson and buff,
And the chamberlains gorgeous in velvet and ruff ;
Next, in red-legged pomp, come the cardinals forth,
Each a lord of the church and a prince of the earth.

What's this squeak of the Aife, and this batter of drum ?
Lo ! the Swiss of the Church from Perugia come, —

The militant angels, whose sabres drive home
To the hearts of the malcontents,
cursed and abhorred,
The good Father's missives, and "Thus saith the Lord!"
And lend to his logic the point of the sword!

O maids of Etruria, gazing sorrow
O'er dark Thrasy menus, dishevelled
and torn!
O fathers, who pluck at your gray beards
for shame!
O mothers, struck dumb by a woe
without name!
Well ye know how the Holy Church
hireling behaves,
And his tender compassion of prisons
and graves!

There they stand, the hired stabbers,
the blood-stains yet fresh,
That splashed like red wine from the
vintage of flesh,—
Grim instruments, careless as pincers
and rack
How the joints tear apart, and the
strained sinews crack;
But the hate that glares on them is
sharp as their swords,
And the sneer and the scowl print the
air with fierce words!

Off with hats, down with knees, shout
your vivas like mad!
Here 's the Pope in his holiday righteoussness clad,
From shorn crown to toe-nail, kiss-worn
to the quick,
Of sainthood in purple the pattern and
pick,
Who the rôle of the priest and the soldier unites,
And, praying like Aaron, like Joshua
fights!

Is this Pio Nono the gracious, for whom
We sang our hosannas and lighted all
Rome;
With whose advent we dreamed the
new era began

When the priest should be human, the
monk be a man?
Ah, the wolf 's with the sheep, and the
fox with the fowl,
When freedom we trust to the crozier
and cowl!

Stand aside, men of Rome! Here 's a
hangman-faced Swiss —
(A blessing for him surely can't go
amiss) —
Would kneel down the sanctified slipper to kiss.
Short shrift will suffice him, — he 's blest
beyond doubt;
But there 's blood on his hands which
would scarcely wash out,
Though Peter himself held the baptismal
spout!

Make way for the next! Here 's
another sweet son!
What 's this mastiff-jawed rascal in
epaulets done?
He did, whispers rumor, (its truth God
forbid!)
At Perugia what Herod at Bethlehem
did.
And the mothers? — Don't name them!
— these humors of war.
They who keep him in service must
pardon him for.

Hist! here 's the arch-knave in a cardinal's hat,
With the heart of a wolf, and the stealth
of a cat
(As if Judas and Herod together were
rolled),
Who keeps, all as one, the Pope's conscience and gold,
Mounts guard on the altar, and pilfers
from thence,
And flatters St. Peter while stealing
his pence!

Who doubts Antonelli? Have miracles ceased
When robbers say mass, and Barabbas
is priest?
When the Church eats and drinks, at
its mystical board,
The true flesh and blood carved and
shed by its sword,

When its martyr, unsinged, claps the
crown on his head,
And roasts, as his proxy, his neighbor
instead !

There ! the bells jow and jangle the
same blessed way
That they did when they rang for
Bartholomew's day.
Hark ! the tallow-faced monsters, nor
women nor boys,
Vex the air with a shrill, sexless horror
of noise.
Te Deum laudamus ! — All round
without stint
The incense-pot swings with a taint of
blood in't !

And now for the blessing ! Of little
account,
You know, is the old one they heard
on the Mount.
Its giver was landless, his raiment was
poor,
No jewelled tiara his fishermen wore ;
No incense, no lackeys, no riches, no
home,
No Swiss guards ! — We order things
better at Rome.

So bless us the strong hand, and curse
us the weak ;
Let Austria's vulture have food for her
beak ;
Let the wolf-whelp of Naples play
Bomba again,
With his death-cap of silence, and
halter, and chain ;
Put reason, and justice, and truth
under ban ;
For the sin unforgiven is freedom for
man !

FOR AN AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

THE Persian's flowery gifts, the shrine
Of fruitful Ceres, charm no more ;
The woven wreaths of oak and pine
Are dust along the Isthmian shore.

But beauty hath its homage still,
And nature holds us still in debt ;
And woman's grace and household skill,
And manhood's toil, are honored yet.

And we, to-day, amidst our flowers
And fruits, have come to own again
The blessings of the summer hours,
The early and the latter rain ;

To see our Father's hand once more
Reverse for us the plenteous horn
Of autumn, filled and running o'er
With fruit, and flower, and golden
corn !

Once more the liberal year laughs out
O'er richer stores than gems or gold ;
Once more with harvest-song and shout
Is Nature's bloodless triumph told.

Our common mother rests and sings,
Like Ruth, among her garnered
sheaves ;
Her lap is full of goodly things,
Her brow is bright with autumn
leaves.

O favors every year made new !
O gifts with rain and sunshine sent !
The bounty overruns our due,
The fulness shames our discontent.

We shut our eyes, the flowers bloom on ;
We murmur, but the corn-ears fill ;
We choose the shadow, but the sun
That casts it shines behind us still.

God gives us with our rugged soil
The power to make it Eden-fair,
And richer fruits to crown our toil
Than summer-wedded islands bear.

Who murmurs at his lot to-day ?
Whoscornshis native fruit and bloom ?
Or sighs for dainties far away,
Beside the bounteous board of home ?

Thank Heaven, instead, that Freedom's
arm
Can change a rocky soil to gold, --
That brave and generous lives can warm
A clime with northern ices cold.

And let these altars, wreathed with
flowers
And piled with fruits, awake again
Thanksgivings for the golden hours,
The early and the latter rain !

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1

I N W A R T I M E.

1863.

TO
SAMUEL E. SEWALL
AND
HARRIET W. SEWALL,
OF MELROSE.

OLOR ISCANUS queries : "Why should we
Vex at the land's ridiculous misery?"
So on his Usk banks, in the blood-red dawn
Of England's civil strife, did careless Vaughan
Bemock his times. O friends of many years !
Though faith and trust are stronger than our fears,
And the signs promise peace with liberty,
Not thus we trifle with our country's tears
And sweat of agony. The future's gain
Is certain as God's truth ; but, meanwhile, pain
Is bitter and tears are salt : our voices take
A sober tone ; our very household songs
Are heavy with a nation's griefs and wrongs ;
And innocent mirth is chastened for the sake
Of the brave hearts that nevermore shall beat,
The eyes that smile no more, the unreturning feet !

I N W A R T I M E.

THY WILL BE DONE.

We see not, know not; all our way
Is night, — with Thee alone is day:
From out the torrent's troubled drift,
Above the storm our prayers we lift,
Thy will be done !

The flesh may fail, the heart may faint,
But who are we to make complaint,
Or dare to plead, in times like these,
The weakness of our love of ease?
Thy will be done !

We take with solemn thankfulness
Our burden up, nor ask it less,
And count it joy that even we
May suffer, serve, or wait for Thee,
Whose will be done !

Though dim as yet in tint and line,
We trace Thy picture's wise design,
And thank Thee that our age supplies
Its dark relief of sacrifice.
Thy will be done !

And if, in our unworthiness,
Thy sacrificial wine we press;
If from Thy ordeal's heated bars
Our feet are seamed with crimson scars,
Thy will be done !

If, for the age to come, this hour
Of trial hath vicarious power,
And, blest by Thee, our present pain,
Be Liberty's eternal gain,
Thy will be done !

Strike, Thou the Master, we Thy keys,
The anthem of the destinies!
The minor of Thy loftier strain,
Our hearts shall breathe the old refrain,
Thy will be done !

A WORD FOR THE HOUR.

THE firmament breaks up. In black
eclipse
Light after light goes out. One evil
star,
Luridly glaring through the smoke of
war,
As in the dream of the Apocalypse,
Drags others down. Let us not weakly
weep
Nor rashly threaten. Give us grace to
keep
Our faith and patience; wherefore
should we leap
On one hand into fratricidal fight,
Or, on the other, yield eternal right,
Frame lies of law, and good and ill con-
found?
What fear we? Safe on freedom's van-
tage-ground
Our feet are planted: let us there remain
In unrevengeful calm, no means un-
tried
Which truth can sanction, no just claim
denied,
The sad spectators of a suicide!
They break the links of Union: shall
we light
The fires of hell to weld anew the chain
On that red anvil where each blow is
pain?
Draw we not even now a freer breath,
As from our shoulders falls a load of
death
Loathsome as that the Tuscan's victim
bore
When keen with life to a dead horror
bound?
Why take we up the accursed thing
again?

Pity, forgive, but urge them back no more
 Who, drunk with passion, flaunt disunion's rag
 With its vile reptile-blazon. Let us press
 The golden cluster on our brave old flag
 In closer union, and, if numbering less,
 Brighter shall shine the stars which still remain.

16th 1st mo., 1861.

"EIN FESTE BURG IST UNSER GOTT."

(LUTHER'S HYMN.)

We wait beneath the furnace-blast
 The pangs of transformation ;
 Not painlessly doth God recast
 And mould anew the nation.
 Hot burns the fire
 Where wrongs expire ;
 Nor spares the hand
 That from the land
 Uproots the ancient evil.

The hand-breadth cloud the sages feared
 Its bloody rain is dropping ;
 The poison plant the fathers spared
 All else is overtopping.
 East, West, South, North,
 It curses the earth ;
 All justice dies,
 And fraud and lies
 Live only in its shadow.

What gives the wheat-field blades of steel ?
 What points the rebel cannon ?
 What sets the roaring rabble's heel
 On the old star-spangled pennon ?
 What breaks the oath
 Of the men o' the South ?
 What whets the knife
 For the Union's life ? —
 Hark to the answer : Slavery !

Then waste no blows on lesser foes
 In strife unworthy freemen.

God lifts to-day the veil, and shows
 The features of the demon !
 O North and South,
 Its victims both,
 Can ye not cry,
 "Let slavery die !"
 And union find in freedom ?

What though the cast-out spirit tear
 The nation in his going ?
 We who have shared the guilt must share
 The pang of his o'erthrowing !
 Whate'er the loss,
 Whate'er the cross,
 Shall they complain
 Of present pain
 Who trust in God's hereafter ?

For who that leans on His right arm
 Was ever yet forsaken ?
 What righteous cause can suffer harm
 If He its part has taken ?
 Though wild and loud
 And dark the cloud,
 Behind its folds
 His hand upholds
 The calm sky of to-morrow !

Above the maddening cry for blood,
 Above the wild war-drumming,
 Let Freedom's voice be heard, with good
 The evil overcoming.
 Give prayer and purse
 To stay the Curse
 Whose wrong we share,
 Whose shame we bear,
 Whose end shall gladden Heaven !

In vain the bells of war shall ring
 Of triumphs and revenges,
 While still is spared the evil thing
 That severs and estranges.
 But blest the ear
 That yet shall hear
 The jubilant bell
 That rings the knell
 Of Slavery forever !

Then let the selfish lip be dumb,
 And hushed the breath of sighing ;
 Before the joy of peace must come
 The pains of purifying.

God give us grace
Each in his place
To bear his lot,
And, murmuring not,
Endure and wait and labor !

TO JOHN C. FREMONT.

THIS error, Fremont, simply was to act
A brave man's part, without the states-
man's tact,
And, taking counsel but of common
sense,
To strike at cause as well as conse-
quence.
O, never yet since Roland wound his
horn
At Roncesvalles, has a blast been blown
Far-heard, wide-echoed, startling as
thine own,
Heard from the van of freedom's hope
forlorn !
It had been safer, doubtless, for the time,
To flatter treason, and avoid offence
To that Dark Power whose underlying
crime
Heaves upward its perpetual turbu-
lence.
But if thine be the fate of all who break
The ground for truth's seed, or forerun
their years
Till lost in distance, or with stout hearts
make
A lane for freedom through the level
spears,
Still take thou courage ! God has
spoken through thee,
Irrevocable, the mighty words, Be free !
The land shakes with them, and the
slave's dull ear
Turns from the rice-swamp stealthily to
hear.
Who would recall them now must first
arrest
The winds that blow down from the free
Northwest,
Ruffling the Gulf; or like a scroll roll
back
The Mississippi to its upper springs.
Such words fulfil their prophecy, and
lack
But the full time to harden into things.

THE WATCHERS.

BESIDE a stricken field I stood :
On the torn turf, on grass and wood,
Hung heavily the dew of blood.

Still in their fresh mounds lay the slain,
But all the air was quick with pain
And gusty sighs and tearful rain.

Two angels, each with drooping head
And folded wings and noiseless tread,
Watched by that valley of the dead.

The one, with forehead saintly bland
And lips of blessing, not command,
Leaned, weeping, on her olive wand.

The other's brows were scarred and
knit,
His restless eyes were watch-fires lit,
His hands for battle-gauntlets fit.

"How long!" — I knew the voice of
Peace, —
"Is there no respite? — no release? —
When shall the hopeless quarrel cease?

"O Lord, how long! — One human
soul
Is more than any parchment scroll,
Or any flag thy winds unroll.

"What price was Ellsworth's, young
and brave?
How weigh the gift that Lyon gave,
Or count the cost of Winthrop's grave?

"O brother! if thine eye can see,
Tell how and when the end shall be,
What hope remains for thee and me."

Then Freedom sternly said : "I shun
No strife nor pang beneath the sun,
When human rights are staked and won.

"I knelt with Ziska's hunted flock,
I watched in Toussaint's cell of rock,
I walked with Sidney to the block.

"The moor of Marston felt my tread,
Through Jersey snows the march I led,
My voice Magenta's charges sped.

"But now, through weary day and night,
I watch a vague and aimless fight
For leave to strike one blow aright.

"On either side my foe they own :
One guards through love his ghastly throne,
And one through fear to reverence grown.

"Why wait we longer, mocked, betrayed,
By open foes, or those afraid
To speed thy coming through my aid?

"Why watch to see who win or fall? —
I shake the dust against them all,
I leave them to their senseless brawl."

"Nay," Peace implored : "yet longer wait ;
The doom is near, the stake is great :
God knoweth if it be too late.

"Still wait and watch ; the way prepare
Where I with folded wings of prayer
May follow, weaponless and bare."

"Too late!" the stern, sad voice replied,
"Too late!" its mournful echo sighed,
In low lament the answer died.

A rustling as of wings in flight,
An upward gleam of lessening white,
So passed the vision, sound and sight.

But round me, like a silver bell
Rung down the listening sky to tell
Of holy help, a sweet voice fell.

"Still hope and trust," it sang ; "the rod
Must fall, the wine-press must be trod,
But all is possible with God!"

TO ENGLISHMEN.

You flung your taunt across the wave ;
We bore it as became us,

Well knowing that the fettered slave
Left friendly lips no option save
To pity or to blame us.

You scoffed our plea. "Mere lack of will,
Not lack of power," you told us :
We showed our free-state records; still
You mocked, confounding good and ill,
Slave-haters and slaveholders.

We struck at Slavery ; to the verge
Of power and means we checked it ;
Lo ! — presto, change ! its claims you urge,
Send greetings to it o'er the surge,
And comfort and protect it.

But yesterday you scarce could shake,
In slave-abhorring rigor,
Our Northern palms for conscientious sake :
To-day you clasp the hands that ache
With "walloping the nigger!" ^{II}

O Englishmen ! — in hope and creed,
In blood and tongue our brothers !
We too are heirs of Runnymede :
And Shakespeare's fame and Cromwell's deed
Are not alone our mother's.

"Thicker than water," in one rill
Through centuries of story
Our Saxon blood has flowed, and still
We share with you its good and ill,
The shadow and the glory.

Joint heirs and kinfolk, leagues of wave
Nor length of years can part us :
Your right is ours to shrine and grave,
The common freehold of the brave,
The gift of saints and martyrs.

Our very sins and follies teach
Our kindred frail and human :
We carp at faults with bitter speech,
The while for one unshared by each,
We have a score in common.

We bowed the heart, if not the knee,
To England's Queen, God bless her !

We praised you when your slaves went
free :
We seek to unchain ours. Will ye
Join hands with the oppressor?

And is it Christian England cheers
The bruiser, not the bruised?
And must she run, despite the tears,
And prayers of eighteen hundred years,
A muck in Slavery's crusade?

O black disgrace ! O shame and loss
Too deep for tongue to phrase on !
Tear from your flag its holy cross,
And in your van of battle toss
The pirate's skull-bone blazon !

ASTRÆA AT THE CAPITOL.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1862.

WHEN first I saw our banner wave
Above the nation's council-hall,
I heard beneath its marble wall
The clanking fettters of the slave !

In the foul market-place I stood,
And saw the Christian mother sold,
And childhood with its locks of gold,
Blue-eyed and fair with Saxon blood.

I shut my eyes, I held my breath,
And, smothering down the wrath
and shame
That set my Northern blood afame,
Stood silent, — where to speak was
death.

Beside me gloomed the prison-cell
Where wasted one in slow decline
For uttering simple words of mine,
And loving freedom all too well.

The flag that floated from the dome
Flapped menace in the morning air ;
I stood a perilled stranger where
The human broker made his home.

For crime was virtue : Gown and Sword
And Law their threefold sanction
gave,

And to the quarry of the slave
Went hawking with our symbol-bird.

On the oppressor's side was power ;
And yet I knew that every wrong,
However old, however strong,
But waited God's avenging hour.

I knew that truth would crush the lie,—
Somehow, some time, the end would
be ;

Yet scarcely dared I hope to see
The triumph with my mortal eye.

But now I see it ! In the sun
A free flag floats from yonder dome,
And at the nation's hearth and home
The justice long delayed is done.

Not as we hoped, in calm of prayer,
The message of deliverance comes,
But heralded by roll of drums
On waves of battle-troubled air ! —

Midst sounds that madden and appall,
The song that Bethlehem's sheep-
herds knew !
The harp of David melting through
The demon-agonies of Saul !

Not as we hoped ; — but what are we ?
Above our broken dreams and plans
God lays, with wiser hand than man's,
The corner-stones of liberty.

I cavil not with Him : the voice
That freedom's blessed gospel tells
Is sweet to me as silver bells,
Rejoicing ! — yea, I will rejoice !

Dear friends still toiling in the sun, —
Ye dearer ones who, gone before,
Are watching from the eternal shore
The slow work by your hands begun, —

Rejoice with me ! The chastening rod
Blossoms with love ; the furnace heat
Grows cool beneath His blessed feet
Whose form is as the Son of God !

Rejoice ! Our Marah's bitter springs
Are sweetened ; on our ground of grief
Rise day by day in strong relief
The prophecies of better things.

Rejoice in hope ! The day and night
Are one with God, and one with
them
Who see by faith the cloudy hem
Of Judgment fringed with Mercy's
light !

THE BATTLE AUTUMN OF 1862.

The flags of war like storm-birds fly,
The charging trumpets blow ;
Yet rolls no thunder in the sky,
No earthquake strives below.

And, calm and patient, Nature keeps
Her ancient promise well,
Though o'er her bloom and greenness
sweeps
The battle's breath of hell.

'And still she walks in golden hours
Through harvest-happy farms,
And still she wears her fruits and flowers
Like jewels on her arms.

What mean the gladness of the plain,
This joy of eve and morn,
The mirth that shakes the beard of grain
And yellow locks of corn ?

Ah ! eyes may well be full of tears,
And hearts with hate are hot ;
But even-paced come round the years,
And Nature changes not.

She meets with smiles our bitter grief,
With songs our groans of pain ;
She mocks with tint of flower and leaf
The war-field's crimson stain.

Still, in the cannon's pause, we hear
Her sweet thanksgiving-psalm ;
Too near to God for doubt or fear,
She shares the eternal calm.

She knows the seed lies safe below
The fires that blast and burn ;
For all the tears of blood we sow
She waits the rich return.

She sees with clearer eye than ours
The good of suffering born, —

The hearts that blossom like her flowers,
And ripen like her corn.

O, give to us, in times like these,
The vision of her eyes ;
And make her fields and fruited trees
Our golden prophecies !

O, give to us her finer ear !
Above this stormy din,
We too would hear the bells of cheer
Ring peace and freedom in !

MITHRIDATES AT CHIOS.¹²

Know'st thou, O slave-cursed
land !
How, when the Chian's cup of guilt
Was full to overflow, there came
God's justice in the sword of flame
That, red with slaughter to its hilt,
Blazed in the Cappadocian victor's
hand ?

The heavens are still and far ;
But, not unheard of awful Jove,
The sighing of the island slave
Was answered, when the Aegean
wave

The keels of Mithridates clove,
And the vines shrivelled in the breath
of war.

"Robbers of Chios ! hark,"
The victor cried, "to Heaven's de-
cree !
Pluck your last cluster from the
vine,
Drain your last cup of Chian wine ;
Slaves of your slaves, your doom shall
be,
In Colchian mines by Phasis rolling
dark."

Then rose the long lament
From the hoar sea-god's dusky caves.
The priestess rent her hair and
cried,
"Woe ! woe ! The gods are sleep-
less-eyed !"
And, chained and scourged, the slaves
of slaves,
The lords of Chios into exile went.

"The gods at last pay well,"
So Hellas sang her taunting song,
"The fisher in his net is caught,
The Chian hath his master bought";
And isle from isle, with laughter long,
Took up and sped the mocking parable.

Once more the slow, dumb years
Bring their avenging cycle round,
And, more than Hellas taught of old,
Our wiser lesson shall be told,
Of slaves uprising, freedom-crowned,
To break, not yield, the scourge wet
with their blood and tears.

THE PROCLAMATION.

SAINT PATRICK, slave to Milcho of
the herds
Of Ballymena, wakened with these
words:
"Arise, and flee
Out from the land of bondage, and be
free!"

Glad as a soul in pain, who hears from
heaven
The angels singing of his sins forgiven,
And, wondering, sees
His prison opening to their golden keys,
He rose a man who laid him down a
slave,
Shook from his locks the ashes of the
grave,
And outward trod
Into the glorious liberty of God.

He cast the symbols of his shame away;
And, passing where the sleeping Milcho
lay,
Though back and limb
Smarted with wrong, he prayed, "God
pardon him!"

So went he forth; but in God's time
he came
To light on Uiline's hills a holy flame;
And, dying, gave
The land a saint that lost him as a slave.

O dark, sad millions, patiently and dumb
Waiting for God, your hour, at last, has
come,
And freedom's song
Breaks the long silence of your night
of wrong!

Arise and flee! shake off the vile re-
straint
Of ages; but, like Ballymena's saint,
The oppressor spare,
Heap only on his head the coals of
prayer.

Go forth, like him! like him return
again,
To bless the land whereon in bitter
pain
Ye toiled at first,
And heal with freedom what your slav-
ery cursed.

ANNIVERSARY POEM.

[Read before the Alumni of the Friends'
Yearly Meeting School, at the Annual
Meeting at Newport, R. I., Mth 6th mo.,
1858.]

ONCE more, dear friends, you meet
beneath
A clouded sky:
Not yet the sword has found its sheath,
And on the sweet spring airs the breath
Of war floats by.

Yet trouble springs not from the ground,
Nor pain from chance;
The Eternal order circles round,
And wave and storm find mete and
bound
In Providence.

Full long our feet the flowery ways
Of peace have trod,
Content with creed and garb and
phrase:
A harder path in earlier days
Led up to God.

Too cheaply truths, once purchased
dear,
Are made our own;

Too long the world has smiled to hear
Our boast of full corn in the ear
By others sown ;

To see us stir the martyr fires
Of long ago,
And wrap our satisfied desires
In the singed mantles that our sires
Have dropped below.

But now the cross our worthies bore
On us is laid ;
Profession's quiet sleep is o'er,
And in the scale of truth once more
Our faith is weighed.

The cry of innocent blood at last
Is calling down
An answer in the whirlwind-blast,
The thunder and the shadow cast
From Heaven's dark frown.

The land is red with judgments. Who
Stands guiltless forth ?
Have we been faithful as we knew,
To God and to our brother true,
To Heaven and Earth ?

How faint, through din of merchandise
And count of gain,
Have seemed to us the captive's cries !
How far away the tears and sighs
Of souls in pain !

This day the fearful reckoning comes
To each and all ;
We hear amidst our peaceful homes
The summons of the conscript drums,
The bugle's call.

Our path is plain ; the war-net draws
Round us in vain,
While, faithful to the Higher Cause,
We keep our fealty to the laws
Through patient pain.

The levelled gun, the battle-brand,
We may not take :
But, calmly loyal, we can stand
And suffer with our suffering land
For conscience' sake.

Why ask for ease where all is pain ?
Shall we alone

Be left to add our gain to gain,
When over Armageddon's plain
The trump is blown ?

To suffer well is well to serve ;
Safe in our Lord
The rigid lines of law shall curve
To spare us ; from our heads shall
swerve
Its smiting sword.

And light is mingled with the gloom,
And joy with grief ;
Divinest compensations come,
Through thorns of judgment mercies
bloom
In sweet relief.

Thanks for our privilege to bless,
By word and deed,
The widow in her keen distress,
The childless and the fatherless,
The hearts that bleed !

For fields of duty, opening wide,
Where all our powers
Are tasked the eager steps to guide
Of millions on a path untried :
THE SLAVE IS OURS !

Ours by traditions dear and old,
Which make the race
Our wards to cherish and uphold,
And cast their freedom in the mould
Of Christian grace.

And we may tread the sick-bed floors
Where strong men pine,
And, down the groaning corridors,
Pour freely from our liberal stores
The oil and wine.

Who murmurs that in these dark days
His lot is cast ?
God's hand within the shadow lays
The stones whereon His gates of praise
Shall rise at last.

Turn and o'erturn, O outstretched
Hand !
Nor stint, nor stay :
The years have never dropped their sand
On mortal issue vast and grand
As ours to-day.

Already, on the sable ground
Of man's despair
Is Freedom's glorious picture found,
With all its dusky hands unbound
Upraised in prayer.

O, small shall seem all sacrifice
And pain and loss,
When God shall wipe the weeping eyes,
For suffering give the victor's prize,
The crown for cross !

AT PORT ROYAL.

THE tent-lights glimmer on the land,
The ship-lights on the sea ;
The night-wind smooths with drifting sand
Our track on lone Tybee.

At last our grating keels outslide,
Our good boats forward swing ;
And while we ride the land-locked tide,
Our negroes row and sing.

For dear the bondman holds his gifts
Of music and of song :
The gold that kindly Nature sifts
Among his sands of wrong ;

The power to make his toiling days
And poor home-comforts please ;
The quaint relief of mirth that plays
With sorrow's minor keys.

Another glow than sunset's fire
Has filled the West with light,
Where field and garner, barn and byre
Are blazing through the night.

The land is wild with fear and hate,
The rout runs mad and fast ;
From hand to hand, from gate to gate,
The flaming brand is passed.

The lurid glow falls strong across
Dark faces broad with smiles :
Not theirs the terror, hate, and loss
That fire you blazing piles.

With oar-strokes timing to their song,
They weave in simple lays

The pathos of remembered wrong,
The hope of better days, —
The triumph-note that Miriam sung,
The joy of uncaged birds :
Softening with Afric's mellow tongue
Their broken Saxon words.

SONG OF THE NEGRO BOATMEN.

O, praise an' tanks ! De Lord he come
To set de people free ;
An' massa tink it day ob doom,
An' we ob jubilee.
De Lord dat heap de Red Sea waves
He jus' as 'trong as den ;
He say de word : we las' night slaves ;
To-day, de Lord's freemen.
De yam will grow, de cotton blow,
We'll hab de rice an' corn ;
O nebber you fear, if nebber you
hear
De driver blow his horn !

Ole massa on he trabbels gone :
He leaf de land behind :
De Lord's breff blow him furder on,
Like corn-shuck in de wind.
We own de hoe, we own de plough,
We own de hands dat hold ;
We sell de pig, we sell de cow,
But nebber chile be sold.
De yam will grow, de cotton blow,
We'll hab de rice an' corn :
O nebber you fear, if nebber you
hear
De driver blow his horn !

We pray de Lord : he gib us signs
Dat some day we be free ;
De norf-wind tell it to de pines,
De wild-duck to de sea ;
We tink it when de church-bell ring,
We dream it in de dream ;
De rice-bird mean it when he sing,
De eagle when he scream.
De yam will grow, de cotton blow,
We'll hab de rice an' corn :
O nebber you fear, if nebber you
hear
De driver blow his horn !

We know de promise nebber fail,
 An' nebber lie de word ;
 So like de 'postles in de jail,
 We waited for de Lord :
 An' now he open ebery door,
 An' trow away de key ;
 He tink we lub him so before,
 We lub him better free.
 " De Yam will grow, de cotton blow,
 He'll gib de rice an' corn :
 O nebber you fear, if nebber you
 hear
 De driver blow his horn !

So sing our dusky gondoliers ;
 And with a secret pain,
 And smiles that seem akin to tears,
 We hear the wild refrain.

We dare not share the negro's trust,
 Nor yet his hope deny ;
 We only know that God is just,
 And every wrong shall die.

Rude seems the song ; each swarthy
 face,
 Flame-lighted, ruder still :
 We start to think that hapless race
 Must shape our good or ill ;

That laws of changeless justice bind
 Oppressor with oppressed ;
 And, close as sin and suffering joined,
 We march to Fate abreast.

Sing on, poor hearts ! your chant shall be
 Our sign of blight or bloom, —
 The Vala-song of Liberty,
 Or death-rune of our doom !

BARBARA FRIETCHIE.

Up from the meadows rich with corn,
 Clear in the cool September morn,

The clustered spires of Frederick stand
 Green-walled by the hills of Maryland.

Round about them orchards sweep,
 Apple and peach tree fruited deep,

Fair as a garden of the Lord
 To the eyes of the famished rebel hordes,

On that pleasant morn of the early fall
 When Lee marched over the mountain-wall, —

Over the mountains winding down,
 Horse and foot, into Frederick town.

Forty flags with their silver stars,
 Forty flags with their crimson bars,

Flapped in the morning wind : the sun
 Of noon looked down, and saw not one.

Up rose old Barbara Frietchie then,
 Bowed with her fourscore years and ten ;

Bravest of all in Frederick town,
 She took up the flag the men hauled
 down ;

In her attic window the staff she set,
 To show that one heart was loyal yet.

Up the street came the rebel tread,
 Stonewall Jackson riding ahead.

Under his slouched hat left and right,
 He glanced ; the old flag met his sight.

" Halt ! " — the dust-brown ranks stood
 fast.

" Fire ! " — out blazed the rifle-blast.

It shivered the window, pane and sash ;
 It rent the banner with seam and gash.

Quick, as it fell, from the broken staff
 Dame Barbara snatched the silken scarf,

She leaned far out on the window-sill,
 And shook it forth with a royal will.

" Shoot, if you must, this old gray head,
 But spare your country's flag," she said.

A shade of sadness, a blush of shame,
 Over the face of the leader came :

The nobler nature within him stirred
 To life at that woman's deed and word :

"Who touches a hair of yon gray head
Dies like a dog! March on!" he said.

All day long through Frederick street
Sounded the tread of marching feet :

All day long that free flag tost
Over the heads of the rebel host.

Ever its torn folds rose and fell
On the loyal winds that loved it well ;

And through the hill-gaps sunset light
Shone over it with a warm good-night.

Barbara Frietchie's work is o'er,
And the Rebel rides on his raids no more.

Honor to her! and let a tear
Fall, for her sake, on Stonewall's bier.

Over Barbara Frietchie's grave,
Flag of Freedom and Union, wave !

Peace and order and beauty draw
Round thy symbol of light and law ;

And ever the stars above look down
On thy stars below in Frederick town !

B A L L A D S .

COBBLER KEEZAR'S VISION.⁷³

THE beaver cut his timber
With patient teeth that day,
The minks were fish-wards, and the
crows
Surveyors of highway, —

When Keezar sat on the hillside
Upon his cobbler's form,
With a pan of coals on either hand
To keep his waxed-ends warm.

And there, in the golden weather,
He stitched and hammered and sung ;
In the brook he moistened his leather,
In the pewter mug his tongue.

Well knew the tough old Teuton
Who brewed the stoutest ale,
And he paid the goodwife's reckoning
In the coin of song and tale.

The songs they still are singing
Who dress the hills of vine,
The tales that haunt the Brocken
And whisper down the Rhine.

Woodsy and wild and lonesome,
The swift stream wound away,
Through birches and scarlet maples
Flashing in foam and spray, —

Down on the sharp-horned ledges
Plunging in steep cascade,
Tossing its white-maned waters
Against the hemlock's shade.

Woodsy and wild and lonesome,
East and west and north and south ;
Only the village of fishers
Down at the river's mouth ;

Only here and there a clearing,
With its farm-house rude and new,
And tree-stumps, swart as Indians,
Where the scanty harvest grew.

No shout of home-bound reapers,
No vintage-song he heard,
And on the green no dancing feet
The merry violin stirred.

"Why should folk be glum," said Kee-
zar,
"When Nature herself is glad,
And the painted woods are laughing
At the faces so sour and sad?"

Small heed had the careless cobbler
What sorrow of heart was theirs
Who travailed in pain with the births of
God,
And planted a state with prayers, —

Hunting of witches and warlocks,
Smiting the heathen horde,—
One hand on the mason's trowel,
And one on the soldier's sword!

But give him his ale and cider,
Give him his pipe and song,
Little he cared for Church or State,
Or the balance of right and wrong.

"T is work, work, work," he muttered,—
"And for rest a snuffle of psalms!"
He smote on his leathern apron
With his brown and waxy palms.

"O for the purple harvests
Of the days when I was young!
For the merry grape-stained maidens,
And the pleasant songs they sung!

"O for the breath of vineyards,
Of apples and nuts and wine!
For an oar to row and a breeze to blow
Down the grand old river Rhine!"

A tear in his blue eye glistened,
And dropped on his beard so gray.
"Old, old am I," said Keezar,
"And the Rhine flows far away!"

But a cunning man was the cobbler;
He could call the birds from the trees,
Charm the black snake out of the ledges,
And bring back the swarming bees.

All the virtues of herbs and metals,
All the lore of the woods, he knew,
And the arts of the Old World mingled
With the marvels of the New.

Well he knew the tricks of magic,
And the lapstone on his knee
Had the gift of the Mormon's goggles
Or the stone of Doctor Dee.

For the mighty master Agrrippa
Wrought it with spell and rhyme
From a fragment of mystic moonstone
In the tower of Nettesheim.

To a cobbler Minnesinger
The marvellous stone gave he,—

And he gave it, in turn, to Keezar,
Who brought it over the sea.

He held up that mystic lapstone,
He held it up like a lens,
And he counted the long years coming
By twenties and by tens.

"One hundred years," quoth Keezar,
"And fifty have I told:
Now open the new before me,
And shut me out the old!"

Like a cloud of mist, the blackness
Rolled from the magic stone,
And a marvellous picture mingled
The unknown and the known.

Still ran the stream to the river,
And river and ocean joined:
And there were the bluffs and the blue
sea-line,
And cold north hills behind.

But the mighty forest was broken
By many a steeped town,
By many a white-walled farm-house,
And many a garner brown.

Turning a score of mill-wheels,
The stream no more ran free;
White sails on the winding river,
White sails on the far-off sea.

Below in the noisy village
The flags were floating gay,
And shone on a thousand faces
The light of a holiday.

Swiftly the rival ploughmen
Turned the brown earth from their shares;
Here were the farmer's treasures,
There were the craftsman's ware.

Golden the goodwife's butter,
Ruby her currant-wine;
Grand were the strutting turkeys,
Fat were the beeves and swine.

Yellow and red were the apples,
And the ripe pears russet-brown,
And the peaches had stolen blushes
From the girls who shook them down.

And with blooms of hill and wild-wood,
That shame the toil of art,
Mingled the gorgeous blossoms
Of the garden's tropic heart.

"What is it I see?" said Keezar:
"Am I here, or am I there?
Is it a fête at Bingen?
Do I look on Frankfort fair?

"But where are the clowns and puppets,
And imps with horns and tail?
And where are the Rhenish flagons?
And where is the foaming ale?

"Strange things, I know, will happen,—
Strange things the Lord permits;
But that doughty folk should be jolly
Puzzles my poor old wits.

"Here are smiling manly faces,
And the maiden's step is gay;
Nor sad by thinking, nor mad by
drinking,
Nor mopes, nor fools, are they.

"Here's pleasure without regretting,
And good without abuse,
The holiday and the bridal
Of beauty and of use.

"Here's a priest and there is a Qua-
ker,—
Do the cat and dog agree?
Have they burned the stocks for oven-
wood?

Have they cut down the gallows-tree?

"Would the old folk know their chil-
dren?
Would they own the graceless town,
With never a ranter to worry
And never a witch to drown?"

Loud laughed the cobbler Keezar,
Laughed like a school-boy gay;
Tossing his arms above him,
The lapstone rolled away.

It rolled down the rugged hillside,
It spun like a wheel bewitched.
It plunged through the leaning willows,
And into the river pitched.

There, in the deep, dark water,
The magic stone lies still,
Under the leaning willows
In the shadow of the hill.

But oft the idle fisher
Sits on the shadowy bank,
And his dreams make marvellous pic-
tures
Where the wizard's lapstone sank.

And still, in the summer twilights,
When the river seems to run
Out from the inner glory,
Warm with the melted sun,

The weary mill-girl lingers
Beside the charméd stream,
And the sky and the golden water
Shape and color her dream.

Fair wave the sunset gardens,
The rosy signals fly;
Her homestead beckons from the cloud,
And love goes sailing by!

AMY WENTWORTH.

TO W. B.

As they who watch by sick-beds find
relief
Unwittingly from the great stress of
grief
And anxious care in fantasies out-
wrought
From the hearth's embers flickering
low, or caught
From whispering wind, or tread of
passing feet,
Or vagrant memory calling up some
sweet
Snatch of old song or romance, whence
or why
They scarcely know or ask,—so, thou
and I,
Nursed in the faith that Truth alone is
strong
In the endurance which outwearies
Wrong,
With meek persistence baffling brutal
force,
And trusting God against the uni-
verse,—

We, doomed to watch a strife we may
not share
With other weapons than the patriot's
prayer,
Yet owning, with full hearts and moist-
ened eyes,
The awful beauty of self-sacrifice,
And wrung by keenest sympathy for all
Who give their loved ones for the liv-
ing wall
'Twixt law and treason, — in this evil
day
May haply find, through automatic play
Of pen and pencil, solace to our pain,
And hearten others with the strength
we gain.
I know it has been said our times re-
quire
No play of art, nor dalliance with the
lyre,
No weak essay with Fancy's chloroform
To calm the hot, mad pulses of the
storm,
But the stern war-blast rather, such as
sets
The battle's teeth of serried bayonets,
And pictures grim as Vernet's. Yet
with these
Some softer tints may blend, and milder
keys
Relieve the storm-stunned ear. Let
us keep sweet,
If so we may, our hearts, even while
we eat
The bitter harvest of our own device
And half a century's moral cowardice.
As Nürnberg sang while Wittenberg
defied,
And Kranach painted by his Luther's
side,
And through the war-march of the Pu-
ritan
The silver stream of Marvell's music
ran,
So let the household melodies be sung,
The pleasant pictures on the wall be
hung, —
So let us hold against the hosts of night
And slavery all our vantage-ground of
light.
Let Treason boast its savagery, and
shake
From its flag-folds its symbol rattle-
snake,

Nurse its fine arts, lay human skins in
tan,
And carve its pipe-bowls from the bones
of man,
And make the tale of Fijian banquets
dull
By drinking whiskey from a loyal
skull, —
But let us guard, till this sad war shall
cease,
(God grant it soon !) the graceful arts
of peace :
No foes are conquered who the victors
teach
Their vandal manners and barbaric
speech.
And while, with hearts of thankfulness,
we bear
Of the great common burden our full
share,
Let none upbraid us that the waves
entice
Thy sea-dipped pencil, or some quaint
device,
Rhythmic and sweet, beguiles my pen
away
From the sharp strifes and sorrows of
to-day.
Thus, while the east-wind keen from
Labrador
Sings in the leafless elms, and from the
shore
Of the great sea comes the monotonous
roar
Of the long-breaking surf, and all the
sky
Is gray with cloud, home-bound and
dull, I try
To time a simple legend to the sounds
Of winds in the woods, and waves on
pebbled bounds, —
A song for oars to chime with, such as
might
Be sung by tired sea-painters, who at
night
Look from their hemlock camps, by
quiet cove
Or beach, moon-lighted, on the waves
they love.
(So hast thou looked, when level sun-
set lay
On the calm bosom of some Eastern
bay,

And all the spray-moist rocks and waves that rolled
Up the white sand-slopes flashed with ruddy gold.)
Something it has — a flavor of the sea,
And the sea's freedom — which reminds of thee.
Its faded picture, dimly smiling down
From the blurred fresco of the ancient town,
I have not touched with warmer tints in vain,
If, in this dark, sad year, it steals one thought from pain.

HERR fingers shame the ivory keys
They dance so light along ;
The bloom upon her parted lips
Is sweeter than the song.

O perfumed suitor, spare thy smiles !
Her thoughts are not of thee ;
She better loves the salted wind,
The voices of the sea.

Her heart is like an outbound ship
That at its anchor swings ;
The murmur of the stranded shell
Is in the song she sings.

She sings, and, smiling, hears her praise,
But dreams the while of one
Who watches from his sea-blown deck
The iceberg in the sun.

She questions all the winds that blow,
And every fog-wreath dim,
And bids the sea-birds flying north
Bear messages to him.

She speeds them with the thanks of men
He perilled life to save,
And grateful prayers like holy oil
To smooth for him the wave.

Brown Viking of the fishing-smack !
Fair toast of all the town ! —
The skipper's jerkin ill beseems
The lady's silken gown !

But ne'er shall Amy Wentworth wear
For him the blush of shame
Who dares to set his manly gifts
Against her ancient name.

The stream is brightest at its spring,
And blood is not like wine ;
Nor honored less than he who heirs
Is he who finds a line.

Full lightly shall the prize be won,
If love be Fortune's spur ;
And never maiden stoops to him
Who lifts himself to her.

Her home is brave in Jaffrey Street,
With stately stairways worn
By feet of old Colonial knights
And ladies gentle-born.

Still green about its ample porch
The English ivy twines,
Trained back to show in English oak
The herald's carven signs.

And on her, from the wainscot old,
Ancestral faces frown, —
And this has worn the soldier's sword,
And that the judge's gown.

But, strong of will and proud as they,
She walks the gallery floor
As if she trod her sailor's deck
By stormy Labrador !

The sweetbrier blooms on Kittery-side,
And green are Elliot's bowers ;
Her garden is the pebbled beach,
The mosses are her flowers.

She looks across the harbor-bar
To see the white gulls fly ;
His greeting from the Northern sea
Is in their clang ing cry.

She hums a song, and dreams that he,
As in its romance old,
Shall homeward ride with silken sails
And masts of beaten gold !

O, rank is good, and gold is fair,
And high and low mate ill ;
But love has never known a law
Beyond its own sweet will !

THE COUNTESS.

TO E. W.

I KNOW not, Time and Space so inter-vene,
Whether, still waiting with a trust se-rene,
Thou bearest up thy fourscore years and ten,
Or, called at last, art now Heaven's cit-i-zen ;
But, here or there, a pleasant thought of thee,
Like an old friend, all day has been with me.
The shy, still boy, for whom thy kindly hand
Smoothed his hard pathway to the won-der-land
Of thought and fancy, in gray manhood yet
Keeps green the memory of his early debt.
To-day, when truth and falsehood speak their words
Through hot-lipped cannon and the teeth of swords,
Listening with quickened heart and ear intent
To each sharp clause of that stern ar-gu-ment,
I still can hear at times a softer note
Of the old pastoral music round me float,
While through the hot gleam of our civil strife
Looms the green mirage of a simpler life.
As, at his alien post, the sentinel
Drops the old bucket in the homestead well,
And hears old voices in the winds that toss
Above his head the live-oak's beard of moss.
So, in our trial-time, and under skies shadowed by swords like Islam's par-adise,
I wait and watch, and let my fancy stray
To milder scenes and youth's Arcadian day;

And howsoe'er the pencil dipped in dreams
Shades the brown woods or tints the sunset streams,
The country doctor in the foreground seems,
Whose ancient sulky down the village lanes
Dragged, like a war-car, captive ills and pains.
I could not paint the scenery of my song,
Mindless of one who looked thereon so long ;
Who, night and day, on duty's lonely round,
Made friends o' the woods and rocks, and knew the sound
Of each small brook, and what the hill-side trees
Said to the winds that touched their leafy keys ;
Who saw so keenly and so well could paint
The village-folk, with all their hu-mors quaint, —
The parson ambling on his wall-eyed roan,
Grave and erect, with white hair back-ward blown ;
The tough old boatman, half amphibi-ous grown ;
The muttering witch-wife of the gos-sip's tale,
And the loud straggler levying his black-mail, —
Old customs, habits, superstitions, fears,
All that lies buried under fifty years.
To thee, as is most fit, I bring my lay,
And, grateful, own the debt I cannot pay.

OVER the wooded northern ridge,
Between its houses brown,
To the dark tunnel of the bridge
The street comes straggling down.

You catch a glimpse, through birch and pine,
Of gable, roof, and porch,
The tavern with its swinging sign,
The sharp horn of the church.

The river's steel-blue crescent curves
To meet, in ebb and flow,
The single broken wharf that serves
For sloop and gundelow.

With salt sea-scents along its shores
The heavy hay-boats crawl,
The long antennæ of their oars
In lazy rise and fall.

Along the gray abutment's wall
The idle shad-net dries ;
The toll-man in his cobbler's stall
Sits smoking with closed eyes.

You hear the pier's low undertone
Of waves that chafe and gnaw ;
You start, — a skipper's horn is blown
To raise the creaking draw.

At times a blacksmith's anvil sounds
With slow and sluggish beat,
Or stage-coach on its dusty rounds
Wakes up the staring street.

A place for idle eyes and ears,
A cobwebbed nook of dreams ;
Left by the stream whose waves are
years
The stranded village seems.

And there, like other moss and rust,
The native dweller clings,
And keeps in uninquiring trust,
The old, dull round of things.

The fisher drops his patient lines,
The farmer sows his grain,
Content to hear the murmuring pines
Instead of railroad-train.

Go where, along the tangled steep
That slopes against the west,
The hamlet's buried idlers sleep
In still profounder rest.

Throw back the locust's flowery plume,
The birch's pale-green scarf,
And break the web of brier and bloom
From name and epitaph.

A simple muster-roll of death,
Of pomp and romance shorn,
The dry, old names that common breath
Has cheapened and outworn.

Yet pause by one low mound, and part
The wild vines o'er it laced,
And read the words by rustic art
Upon its headstone traced.

Haply yon white-haired villager
Of fourscore years can say
What means the noble name of her
Who sleeps with common clay.

An exile from the Gascon land
Found refuge here and rest,
And loved, of all the village band,
Its fairest and its best.

He knelt with her on Sabbath morn,
He worshipped through her eyes,
And on the pride that doubts and scorns
Stole in her faith's surprise.

Her simple daily life he saw
By homeliest duties tried,
In all things by an untaught law
Of fitness justified.

For her his rank aside he laid ;
He took the hue and tone
Of lowly life and toil, and made
Her simple ways his own.

Yet still, in gay and careless ease,
To harvest-field or dance
He brought the gentle courtesies,
The nameless grace of France.

And she who taught him love not less
From him she loved in turn
Caught in her sweet unconsciousness
What love is quick to learn.

Each grew to each in pleased accord,
Nor knew the gazing town
If she looked upward to her lord
Or he to her looked down.

How sweet, when summer's day was
o'er,
His violin's mirth and wail,
The walk on pleasant Newbury's shore,
The river's moonlit sail !

Ah ! life is brief, though love be long :
The altar and the bier,
The burial hymn and bridal song,
Were both in one short year !

Her rest is quiet on the hill,
Beneath the locust's bloom :
Far off her lover sleeps as still
Within his scutcheoned tomb.

The Gascon lord, the village maid,
In death still clasp their hands ;
The love that levels rank and grade
Unites their severed lands.

What matter whose the hillside grave,
Or whose the blazoned stone ?
Forever to her western wave
Shall whisper blue Garonne !

O Love ! — so hallowing every soil
That gives thy sweet flower room,
Wherever, nursed by ease or toil,
The human heart takes bloom ! —

Plant of lost Eden, from the sod
Of sinful earth unripen,
White blossom of the trees of God
Dropped down to us from heaven ! —

This tangled waste of mound and stone
Is holy for thy sake :
A sweetness which is all thy own
Breathes out from fern and brake.

And while ancestral pride shall twine
The Gascon's tomb with flowers,
Fall sweetly here, O song of mine,
With summer's bloom and showers !

And let the lines that severed seem
Unite again in thee,
As western wave and Gallic stream
Are mingled in one sea !

O C C A S I O N A L P O E M S .

NAPLES.

1860.

INSCRIBED TO ROBERT C. WATERSTON,
OF BOSTON.

I GIVE thee joy ! — I know to thee
The dearest spot on earth must be
Where sleeps thy loved one by the
summer sea ;

Where, near her sweetest poet's
tomb,
The land of Virgil gave thee room
To lay thy flower with her perpetual
bloom.

I know that when the sky shut
down
Behind thee on the gleaming town,
On Baiae's baths and Posillipo's crown ;

And, through thy tears, the mock-
ing day
Burned Ischia's mountain lines
away,
And Capri melted in its sunny bay, —

Through thy great farewell sorrow
shot
The sharp pang of a bitter thought
That slaves must tread around the
holy spot.

Thou knewest not the land was
blest
In giving thy beloved rest,
Holding the fond hope closer to her
breast

That every sweet and saintly grave
Was freedom's prophecy, and gave
The pledge of Heaven to sanctify and
save.

That pledge is answered. To thy
ear
The unchained city sends its cheer
And, tuned to joy, the muffled bells a
fear

Ring Victor in. The land is
free
And happy by the summer sea,
And Bourbon Naples now is Italy !

She smiles above her broken chain
The languid smile that follows pain,
Stretching her cramped limbs to the
sun again.

O, joy for all, who hear her call
From gray Camaldoli's convent-wall
And Elmo's towers to freedom's carnival !

A new life breathes among her vines
And olives, like the breath of pines
Blown downward from the breezy Apennines.

Lean, O my friend, to meet that
breath,
Rejoice as one who witnesseth
Beauty from ashes rise, and life from
death !

Thy sorrow shall no more be pain,
Its tears shall fall in sunlit rain,
Writing the grave with flowers: "Arisen
again!"

THE SUMMONS.

My ear is full of summer sounds,
Of summer sights my languid eye;
Beyond the dusty village bounds
I loiter in my daily rounds,
And in the noon-time shadows lie.

I hear the wild bee wind his horn,
The bird swings on the ripened wheat,
The long green lances of the corn
Are tilting in the winds of morn,
The locust shrills his song of heat.

Another sound my spirit hears,
A deeper sound that drowns them
all,—
A voice of pleading choked with tears,
The call of human hopes and fears,
The Macedonian cry to Paul !

The storm-bell rings, the trumpet blows;
I know the word and countersign;
Wherever Freedom's vanguard goes,
Where stand or fall her friends or foes,
I know the place that should be mine.

Shamed be the hands that idly fold,
And lips that woo the reed's accord,
When laggard Time the hour has tolled
For true with false and new with old
To fight the battles of the Lord !

O brothers! blest by partial Fate
With power to match the will and
deed,
To him your summons comes too late
Who sinks beneath his armor's weight,
And has no answer but God-speed !

THE WAITING.

I wait and watch : before my eyes
Methinks the night grows thin and
gray;

I wait and watch the eastern skies
To see the golden spears uprise
Beneath the oriflamme of day !

Like one whose limbs are bound in
trance
I hear the day-sounds swell and grow,
And see across the twilight glance,
Troop after troop, in swift advance,
The shining ones with plumes of
snow !

I know the errand of their feet,
I know what mighty work is theirs ;
I can but lift up hands unmeet,
The threshing-floors of God to beat,
And speed them with unworthy
prayers.

I will not dream in vain despair
The steps of progress wait for me :
The puny leverage of a hair
The planet's impulse well may spare,
A drop of dew the tided sea.

The loss, if loss there be, is mine,
And yet not mine if understood ;
For one shall grasp and one resign,
One drink life's rue, and one its wine,
And God shall make the balance
good.

O power to do ! O baffled will !
O prayer and action ! ye are one

Who may not strive, may yet fulfil
The harder task of standing still,
And good but wished with God is
done!

MOUNTAIN PICTURES.

I.

FRANCONIA FROM THE PEMIGE-WASSET.

ONCE more, O Mountains of the North,
unveil
Your brows, and lay your cloudy
mantles by !
And once more, ere the eyes that seek
ye fail,
Uplift against the blue walls of the
sky
Your mighty shapes, and let the sun-
shine weave
Its golden net-work in your belting
woods,
Smile down in rainbows from your
falling floods,
And on your kingly brows at morn and
eve
Set crowns of fire ! So shall my soul
receive
Haply the secret of your calm and
strength,
Your unforgotten beauty interfuse
My common life, your glorious shapes
and hues
And sun-dropped splendors at my
bidding come,
Loom vast through dreams, and
stretch in billowy length
From the sea-level of my lowland home !

They rise before me ! Last night's
thunder-gust
Roared not in vain : for where its
lightnings thrust
Their tongues of fire, the great peaks
seem so near,
Burned clean of mist, so starkly bold
and clear,
I almost pause the wind in the pines to
hear,
The loose rock's fall, the steps of
browsing deer.

The clouds that shattered on yon slide-
worn walls
And splintered on the rocks their
spears of rain
Have set in play a thousand waterfalls,
Making the dusk and silence of the
woods
Glad with the laughter of the chasing
floods,
And luminous with blown spray and
silver gleams,
While, in the vales below, the dry-
lipped streams
Sing to the freshened meadow-lands
again.
So, let me hope, the battle-storm that
beats
The land with hail and fire may pass
away
With its spent thunders at the break of
day,
Like last night's clouds, and leave, as
it retreats,
A greener earth and fairer sky be-
hind,
Blown crystal-clear by Freedom's
Northern wind !

II.

MONADNOCK FROM WACHUSSET.

I WOULD I were a painter, for the sake
Of a sweet picture, and of her who
led,
A fitting guide, with reverential tread,
Into that mountain mystery. First a lake
Tinted with sunset; next the wavy
lines
Of far receding hills ; and yet more
far,
Monadnock lifting from his night of
pines
His rosy forehead to the evening
star.
Beside us, purple-zoned, Wachusett laid
His head against the West, whose
warm light made
His aureole ; and o'er him, sharp
and clear,
Like a shaft of lightning in mid-launch-
ing stayed,
A single level cloud-line, shone upon

By the fierce glances of the sunken sun,
Menaced the darkness with its golden spear !

So twilight deepened round us. Still and black
The great woods climbed the mountain at our back ;
And on their skirts, where yet the lingering day
On the shore greenness of the clearing lay,
The brown old farm-house like a bird's-nest hung.
With home-life sounds the desert air was stirred :
The bleat of sheep along the hill we heard,
The bucket plashing in the cool, sweet well,
The pasture-bars that clattered as they fell ;
Dogs barked; fowls fluttered, cattle lowed : the gate
Of the barn-yard creaked beneath the merry weight
Of sun-brown children, listening, while they swung,
The welcome sound of supper-call to hear ;
And down the shadowy lane, in tinklings clear,
The pastoral curfew of the cow-bell rung.
Thus soothed and pleased, our backward path we took,
Praising the farmer's home. He only spake,
Looking into the sunset o'er the lake,
Like one to whom the far-off is most near :
" Yes, most folks think it has a pleasant look ;
I love it for my good old mother's sake,
Who lived and died here in the peace of God ! "
The lesson of his words we pondered o'er,
As silently we turned the eastern flank
Of the mountain, where its shadow deepest sank,
Doubling the night along our rugged road :

We felt that man was more than his abode,—
The inward life than Nature's raiment more ;
And the warm sky, the sundown-tinted hill,
The forest and the lake, seemed dwarfed and dim
Before the saintly soul, whose human will
Meekly in the Eternal footsteps trod,
Making her homely toil and household ways
An earthly echo of the song of praise
Swelling from angel lips and harps of seraphim.

OUR RIVER.

FOR A SUMMER FESTIVAL AT "THE LAURELS" ON THE MERRIMACK.

ONCE more on yonder laurelled height
The summer flowers have budded ;
Once more with summer's golden light
The vales of home are flooded ;
And once more, by the grace of Him
Of every good the Giver,
We sing upon its wooded rim
The praises of our river :

Its pines above, its waves below,
The west-wind down it blowing,
As fair as when the young Brissett
Bheld it seaward flowing, —
And bore its memory o'er the deep,
To soothe a martyr's sadness,
And fresco, in his troubled sleep,
His prison-walls with gladness.

We know the world is rich with streams
Renowned in song and story,
Whose music murmurs through our dreams

Of human love and glory :
We know that Arno's banks are fair,
And Rhine has castled shadows,
And, poet-tuned, the Doon and Ayr
Go singing down their meadows.

But while, unpictured and unsung
By painter or by poet,

Our river waits the tuneful tongue
 And cunning hand to show it, —
 We only know the fond skies lean
 Above it, warm with blessing,
 And the sweet soul of our Undine
 Awakes to our caressing.

No fickle sun-god holds the flocks
 That graze its shores in keeping;
 No icy kiss of Dian mocks
 The youth beside it sleeping :
 Our Christian river loveth most
 The beautiful and human ;
 The heathen streams of Naiads boast,
 But ours of man and woman.

The miner in his cabin hears
 The ripple we are hearing :
 It whispers soft to homesick ears
 Around the settler's clearing :
 In Sacramento's vales of corn,
 Or Santee's bloom of cotton,
 Our river by its valley-born
 Was never yet forgotten.

The drum rolls loud, — the bugle fills
 The summer air with clangor ;
 The war-storm shakes the solid hills
 Beneath its tread of anger ;
 Young eyes that last year smiled in ours
 Now point the rifle's barrel,
 And hands then stained with fruits and
 flowers
 Bear redder stains of quarrel.

But blue skies smile, and flowers bloom
 on,
 And rivers still keep flowing, —
 The dear God still his rain and sun
 On good and ill bestowing.
 His pine-trees whisper, "Trust and
 wait !"
 His flowers are prophesying
 That all we dread of change or fall
 His love is underlying.

And thou, O Mountain-born ! — no more
 We ask the wise Allotter
 Than for the firmness of thy shore,
 The calmness of thy water,
 The cheerful lights that overlay
 Thy rugged slopes with beauty,
 To match our spirits to our day
 And make a joy of duty.

ANDREW RYKMAN'S PRAYER.

ANDREW RYKMAN 's dead and gone ;
 You can see his leaning slate
 In the graveyard, and thereon
 Read his name and date.

" *Trust is truer than our fears,*"
 Runs the legend through the moss,
 "*Gain is not in added years,*
Nor in death is loss."

Still the feet that thither trod,
 All the friendly eyes are dim ;
 Only Nature, now, and God
 Have a care for him.

There the dews of quiet fall,
 Singing birds and soft winds stray ;
 Shall the tender Heart of all
 Be less kind than they ?

What he was and what he is
 They who ask may haply find,
 If they read this prayer of his
 Which he left behind.

Pardon, Lord, the lips that dare
 Shape in words a mortal's prayer !
 Prayer, that, when my day is done,
 And I see its setting sun,
 Shorn and beamless, cold and dim,
 Sink beneath the horizon's rim, —
 When this ball of rock and clay
 Crumbles from my feet away,
 And the solid shores of sense
 Melt into the vague immense,
 Father ! I may come to Thee
 Even with the beggar's plea,
 As the poorest of Thy poor,
 With my needs, and nothing more.

Not as one who seeks his home
 With a step assured I come ;
 Still behind the tread I hear
 Of my life-companion, Fear,
 Still a shadow deep and vast
 From my westering feet is cast,
 Wavering, doubtful, undefined,
 Never shapen nor outlined :
 From myself the fear has grown
 And the shadow is my own.

Yet, O Lord, through all a sense
 Of Thy tender providence
 Stays my failing heart on Thee,
 And confirms the feeble knee ;
 And, at times, my worn feet press
 Spaces of cool quietness,
 Lilled whiteness shone upon
 Not by light of moon or sun.
 Hours there be of inmost calm,
 Broken but by grateful psalm,
 When I love Thee more than fear Thee,
 And Thy blessed Christ seems near me,
 With forgiving look, as when
 He beheld the Magdalen.
 Well I know that all things move
 To the spherical rhythm of love, —
 That to Thee, O Lord of all !
 Nothing can of chance befall :
 Child and seraph, mote and star,
 Well Thou knowest what we are ;
 Through Thy vast creative plan
 Looking, from the worm to man,
 There is pity in Thine eyes,
 But no hatred nor surprise.
 Not in blind caprice of will,
 Not in cunning sleight of skill,
 Not for show of power, was wrought
 Nature's marvel in Thy thought.
 Never careless hand and vain
 Smites these chords of joy and pain ;
 No immortal selfishness
 Plays the game of curse and bless :
 Heaven and earth are witnesses
 That Thy glory goodness is.
 Not for sport of mind and force
 Hast Thou made Thy universe,
 But as atmosphere and zone
 Of Thy loving heart alone.
 Man, who walketh in a show,
 Sees before him, to and fro,
 Shadow and illusion go ;
 All things flow and fluctuate,
 Now contract and now dilate.
 In the welter of this sea,
 Nothing stable is but Thee ;
 In this whirl of swooning trance,
 Thou alone art permanence ;
 All without Thee only seems,
 All beside is choice of dreams.
 Never yet in darkest mood
 Doubted I that Thou wast good,
 Nor mistook my will for fate,
 Pain of sin for heavenly hate, —
 Never dreamed the gates of pearl

Rise from out the burning marl,
 Or that good can only live
 Of the bad conservative,
 And through counterpoise of hell
 Heaven alone be possible.
 For myself alone I doubt ;
 All is well, I know, without ;
 I alone the beauty mar,
 I alone the music jar.
 Yet, with hands by evil stained,
 And an ear by discord pained,
 I am groping for the keys
 Of the heavenly harmonies ;
 Still within my heart I bear
 Love for all things good and fair.
 Hands of want or souls in pain
 Have not sought my door in vain ;
 I have kept my fealty good
 To the human brotherhood ;
 Scarcely have I asked in prayer
 That which others might not share.
 I, who hear with secret shame
 Praise that paineth more than blame,
 Rich alone in favors lent,
 Virtuous by accident,
 Doubtful where I fain would rest,
 Frailest where I seem the best,
 Only strong for lack of test, —
 What am I, that I should press
 Special pleas of selfishness,
 Coolly mounting into heaven
 On my neighbor unforgiven ?
 Ne'er to me, how'ev'r disguised,
 Comes a saint unrecognized ;
 Never fails my heart to greet
 Noble deed with warmer beat ;
 Halt and maimed, I own not less
 All the grace of holiness ;
 Nor, through shame or self-distrust,
 Less I love the pure and just.
 Lord, forgive these words of mine :
 What have I that is not Thine ? —
 Whatsoe'er I fain would boast
 Needs Thy pitying pardon most.
 Thou, O Elder Brother ! who
 In Thy flesh our trial knew,
 Thou, who hast been touched by these
 Our most sad infirmities,
 Thou alone the gulf canst span
 In the dual heart of man,
 And between the soul and sense
 Reconcile all difference,
 Change the dream of me and mine
 For the truth of Thee and Thine,

OCCASIONAL POEMS.

And, through chaos, doubt, and strife,
Interfuse Thy calm of life.
Haply, thus by Thee renewed,
In Thy borrowed goodness good,
Some sweet morning yet in God's
Dim, æonian periods,
Joyful I shall wake to see
Those I love who rest in Thee,
And to them in Thee allied
Shall my soul be satisfied.

Scarcely Hope hath shaped for me
What the future life may be.
Other lips may well be bold ;
Like the publican of old,
I can only urge the plea,
" Lord, be merciful to me ! "
Nothing of desert I claim,
Unto me belongeth shame.
Not for me the crowns of gold,
Palms, and harpings manifold ;
Not for erring eye and feet
Jasper wall and golden street.
What thou wilt, O Father, give !
All is gain that I receive.
If my voice I may not raise
In the elders' song of praise,
If I may not, sin-defiled,
Claim my birthright as a child,
Suffer it that I to Thee
As an hired servant be ;
Let the lowliest task be mine,
Grateful, so the work be Thine ;
Let me find the humblest place
In the shadow of Thy grace :
Blest to me were any spot
Where temptation whispers not.
If there be some weaker one,
Give me strength to help him on ;
If a blinder soul there be,
Let me guide him nearer Thee.
Make my mortal dreams come true
With the work I fain would do ;
Clothe with life the weak intent,
Let me be the thing I meant ;
Let me find in Thy employ
Peace that dearer is than joy :
Out of self to love be led
And to heaven acclimated,
Until all things sweet and good
Seem my natural habitude.

So we read the prayer of him
Who, with John of Labadie,

Trod, of old, the cozy rim
Of the Zuyder Zee.

Thus did Andrew Rykman pray,
Are we wiser, better grown,
That we may not, in our day,
Make his prayer our own ?

THE CRY OF A LOST SOUL.

In that black forest, where, when day
is done,
With a snake's sinfulness glides the
Amazon,
Darkly from sunset to the rising sun,
A cry, as of the pained heart of the
wood,
The long, despairing moan of solitude
And darkness, in the absence of all
good.

Startles the traveller, with a sound so
drear,
So full of hopeless agony and fear,
If his heart stands still and listens like
his ear.

The guide, as if he heard a dead-bell
toll,
Stares, drops his oar against the gun-
wale's thole,
Crosses himself, and whispers, " A lost
soul ! "

" No, Sefior, not a bird. I know it
well, —
It is the pained soul of some infidel
Or cursed heretic that cries from hell.

" Poor fool ! with hope still mocking
his despair,
He wanders, shrieking on the midnight
air
Forhumanity and for Christian prayer.

" Saints strike him dumb ! Our Holy
Mother hath
No prayer for him who, sinning unto
death,
Burns always in the furnace of God's
wrath ! "

Thus to the baptized pagan's cruel lie,
Lending new horror to that mournful
cry,
The voyager listens, making no reply.

Dim burns the boat-lamp : shadows
deepen round,
From giant trees with snake-like creepers wound,
And the black water glides without a
sound.

But in the traveller's heart a secret sense
Of nature plastic to benign intents,
And an eternal good in Providence,

Lifts to the starry calm of heaven his
eyes ;
And lo ! rebuking all earth's ominous
cries,
The Cross of pardon lights the tropic
skies !

" Father of all ! " he urges his strong
plea,
" Thou lovest all : thy erring child may
be
Lost to himself, but never lost to Thee !

" All souls are Thine ; the wings of
morning bear
None from that Presence which is everywhence,
Nor hell itself can hide, for Thou art
there.

" Through sins of sense, perversities of
will,
Through doubt and pain, through guilt
and shame and ill.
Thy pitying eye is on Thy creature still.

" Wilt thou not make, Eternal Source
and Goal !
In thy long years, life's broken circle
whole,
And change to praise the cry of a lost
soul ? "

ITALY.

Across the sea I heard the groans
Of nations in the intervals

Of wind and wave. Their blood and
bones
Cried out in torture, crushed by thrones,
And sucked by priestly cannibals.

I dreamed of freedom slowly gained
By martyr meekness, patience, faith,
And lo ! an athlete grimly stained,
With corded muscles battle-strained,
Shouting it from the fields of death !

I turn me, awe-struck, from the sight,
Among the clamoring thousands mute,
I only know that God is right,
And that the children of the light
Shall tread the darkness under foot.

I know the pent fire heaves its crust,
That sultry skies the bolt will form
To smite them clear ; that Nature must
The balance of her powers adjust,
Though with the earthquake and the
storm.

God reigns, and let the earth rejoice !
I bow before His sterner plan.
Dumb are the organs of my choice ;
He speaks in battle's stormy voice,
His praise is in the wrath of man !

Yet, surely as He lives, the day
Of peace He promised shall be ours,
To fold the flags of war, and lay
Its sword and spear to rust away,
And sow its ghastly fields with flow-
ers !

THE RIVER PATH.

No bird-song floated down the hill,
The tangled bank below was still ;

No rustle from the birchen stem,
No ripple from the water's hem.

The dusk of twilight round us grew,
We felt the falling of the dew ;

For, from us, ere the day was done,
The wooded hills shut out the sun.

But on the river's farther side
We saw the hill-tops glorified, —

A tender glow, exceeding fair,
A dream of day without its glare.

With us the damp, the chill, the gloom :
With them the sunset's rosy bloom ;

While dark, through willowy vistas seen,
The river rolled in shade between.

From out the darkness where we trod,
We gazed upon those hills of God,

Whose light seemed not of moon or sun.
We spake not, but our thought was one.

We paused, as if from that bright shore
Beckoned our dear ones gone before ;

And stilled our beating hearts to hear
The voices lost to mortal ear !

Sudden our pathway turned from night ;
The hills swung open to the light ;

Through their green gates the sunshine
showed,
A long, slant splendor downward flowed.

Down glade and glen and bank it rolled ;
It bridged the shaded stream with gold ;

And, borne on piers of mist, allied
The shadowy with the sunlit side !

" So," prayed we, " when our feet draw
near
The river dark, with mortal fear,

" And the night cometh chill with dew,
O Father ! let thy light break through !

" So let the hills of doubt divide,
So bridge with faith the sunless tide !

" So let the eyes that fail on earth
On thy eternal hills look forth ;

" And in thy beckoning angels know
The dear ones whom we loved below ! "

A MEMORIAL.

M. A. C.

O, THICKER, deeper, darker growing,
The solemn vista to the tomb
Must know henceforth another shadow,
And give another cypress room.

In love surpassing that of brothers,
We walked, O friend, from child-
hood's day ;
And, looking back o'er fifty summers,
Our footprints track a common way.

One in our faith, and one our longing
To make the world within our reach
Somewhat the better for our living,
And gladder for our human speech.

Thouheard'st with me the far-off voices,
The old beguiling song of fame,
But life to thee was warm and present,
And love was better than a name.

To homely joys and loves and friendships
Thy genial nature fondly clung ;
And so the shadow on the dial
Ran back and left thee always young.

And who could blame the generous
weakness
Which, only to thyself unjust,
So overprized the worth of others,
And dwarfed thy own with self-dis-
trust ?

All hearts grew warmer in the presence
Of one who, seeking not his own,
Gave freely for the love of giving,
Nor reaped for self the harvest sown.

Thy greeting smile was pledge and
prelude
Of generous deeds and kindly words :
In thy large heart were fair guest-cham-
bers,
Open to sunrise and the birds !

The task was thine to mould and fashion
Life's plastic newness into grace :
To make the boyish heart heroic,
And light with thought the maiden's
face.

O'er all the land, in town and prairie,
With bended heads of mourning,
stand
The living forms that owe their beauty
And fitness to thy shaping hand.

Thy call has come in ripened manhood,
The noonday calm of heart and mind,
While I, who dreamed of thy remaining
To mourn me, linger still behind :

Live on, to own, with self-upbraiding,
A debt of love still due from me, —
The vain remembrance of occasions,
Forever lost, of serving thee.

It was not mine among thy kindred
To join the silent funeral prayers,
But all that long sad day of summer
My tears of mourning dropped with
theirs.

All day the sea-waves sobbed with sor-
row,
The birds forgot their merry trills :
All day I heard the pines lamenting
With thine upon thy homestead hills.

Green be those hillside pines forever,
And green the meadowy lowlands be,
And green the old memorial beeches,
Name-carven in the woods of Lee !

Still let them greet thy life companions
Who thither turn their pilgrim feet,
In every mossy line recalling
A tender memory sadly sweet.

O friend ! if thought and sense avail not
To know thee henceforth as thou art,
That all is well with thee forever
I trust the instincts of my heart.

Thine be the quiet habitations,
Thine the green pastures, blossom-
sown,
And smiles of saintly recognition,
As sweet and tender as thy own.

Thou com'st not from the hush and
shadow
To meet us, but to thee we come ;
With thee we never can be strangers,
And where thou art must still be home.

HYMN,

SUNG AT CHRISTMAS BY THE SCHOL-
ARS OF ST. HELENA'S ISLAND, S.C.

O NONE in all the world before
Were ever glad as we !
We're free on Carolina's shore,
We're all at home and free.

Thou Friend and Helper of the poor,
Who suffered for our sake,
To open every prison door,
And every yoke to break !

Bend low thy pitying face and mild,
And help us sing and pray ;
The hand that blessed the little child,
Upon our foreheads lay.

We hear no more the driver's horn,
No more the whip we fear,
This holy day that saw thee born
Was never half so dear.

The very oaks are greener clad,
The waters brighter smile ;
O never shone a day so glad
On sweet St. Helen's Isle.

We praise thee in our songs to-day,
To thee in prayer we call,
Make swift the feet and straight the way
Of freedom unto all.

Come once again, O blessed Lord !
Come walking on the sea !
And let the main-lands hear the word
That sets the islands free !



S N O W - B O U N D .

A WINTER IDYL.

1865.



TO
THE MEMORY
OF
THE HOUSEHOLD IT DESCRIBES,
THIS POEM IS DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

"As the Spirits of Darkness be stronger in the dark, so Good Spirits which be Angels of Light are augmented not only by the Divine light of the Sun, but also by our common VVood Fire : and as the Celestial Fire drives away dark spirits, so also this our Fire of VVood doth the same."

COR. AGRIPPA, *Occult Philosophy*, Book I. chap. v.

"Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
Arrives the snow ; and, driving o'er the fields,
Seems nowhere to slight : the whited air
Hides hills and woods, the river and the heaven,
And veils the farm-house at the garden's end.
The sled and traveller stopped, the courier's feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the housemates sit
Around the radiant fireplace, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of storm."

EMERSON.

SNOW - BOUND.

THE sun that brief December day
Rose cheerless over hills of gray,
And, darkly circled, gave at noon
A sadder light than waning moon.
Slow tracing down the thickening sky
Its mute and ominous prophecy,
A portent seeming less than threat,
It sank from sight before it set.
A chill no coat, however stout,
Of homespun stuff could quite shut out,
A hard, dull bitterness of cold,
That checked, mid-vein, the circling
race
Of life-blood in the sharpened face,
The coming of the snow-storm told.
The wind blew east : we heard the roar
Of Ocean on his wintry shore,
And felt the strong pulse throbbing
there
Beat with low rhythm our inland air.

Meanwhile we did our nightly chores,—
Brought in the wood from out of doors,
Littered the stalls, and from the mows
Raked down the herd's-grass for the
cows :
Heard the horse whinnying for his
corn ;
And, sharply clashing horn on horn,
Impatient down the stanchion rows
The cattle shake their walnut bows ;
While, peering from his early perch
Upon the scaffold's pole of birch,
The cock his crested helmet bent
And down his querulous challenge sent.

Unwarmed by any sunset light
The gray day darkened into night,
A night made hoary with the swarm
And whirl-dance of the blinding storm,
As zigzag wavering to and fro

Crossed and recrossed the wing'd
snow :
And ere the early bedtime came
The white drift piled the window-frame,
And through the glass the clothes-line
posts
Looked in like tall and sheeted ghosts.

So all night long the storm roared on :
The morning broke without a sun;
In tiny spherule traced with lines
Of Nature's geometric signs,
In starry flake, and pellicle,
All day the hoary meteor fell :
And, when the second morning shone,
We looked upon a world unknown,
On nothing we could call our own.
Around the glistening wonder bent
The blue walls of the firmament,
No cloud above, no earth below,—
A universe of sky and snow !
The old familiar sights of ours
Took marvellous shapes ; strangedomes
and towers
Rose up where sty or corn-crib stood,
Or garden wall, or belt of wood ;
A smooth white mound the brush-pile
showed,
A fenceless drift what once was road ;
The bridle-post an old man sat
With loose-flung coat and high cocked
hat :
The well-curb had a Chinese roof ;
And even the long sweep, high aloof,
In its slant splendor, seemed to tell
Of Pisa's leaning miracle.

A prompt, decisive man, no breath,
Our father wasted : " Boys, a path ! "
Well pleased, (for when did farmer boy
Count such a summons less than joy ?)

Our buskins on our feet we drew;
 With mitten'd hands, and caps drawn
 low,
 To guard our necks and ears from
 snow
 We cut the solid whiteness through.
 And, where the drift was deepest, made
 A tunnel walled and overlaid
 With dazzling crystal : we had read
 Of rare Aladdin's wondrous cave,
 And to our own his name we gave,
 With many a wish the luck were ours
 To test his lamp's supernal powers.
 We reached the barn with merry din,
 And roused the prisoned brutes within.
 The old horse thrust his long head out,
 And grave with wonder gazed about ;
 The cock his lusty greeting said,
 And forth his speckled harem led ;
 The oxen lashed their tails, and hooked,
 And mild reproach of hunger looked ;
 The hornéd patriarch of the sheep,
 Like Egypt's Amun roused from sleep,
 Shook his sage head with gesture mute,
 And emphasized with stamp of foot.

All day the gusty north-wind bore
 The loosening drift its breath before ;
 Low circling round its southern zone,
 The sun through dazzling snow-mist
 shone.

No church-bell lent its Christian tone
 To the savage air, no social smoke
 Curled over woods of snow-hung oak.
 A solitude made more intense
 By dreary-voiced elements,
 The shrieking of the mindless wind,
 The moaning tree-boughs swaying
 blind,
 And on the glass the unmeaning beat
 Of ghostly finger-tips of sleet.
 Beyond the circle of our hearth
 No welcome sound of toil or mirth
 Unbound the spell, and testified
 Of human life and thought outside.
 We minded that the sharpest ear
 The buried brooklet could not hear,
 The music of whose liquid lip
 Had been to us companionship,
 And, in our lonely life, had grown
 To have an almost human tone.

As night drew on, and, from the crest
 Of wooded knolls that ridged the west,

The sun, a snow-blown traveller, sank
 From sight beneath the smothering
 bank,
 We piled, with care, our nightly stack
 Of wood against the chimney-back,—
 The oaken log, green, huge, and thick,
 And on its top the stout back-stick ;
 The knotty forestick laid apart,
 And filled between with curious art
 The ragged brush ; then, hovering near,
 We watched the first red blaze appear,
 Heard the sharp crackle, caught the
 gleam
 On whitewashed wall and sagging beam,
 Until the old, rude-furnished room
 Burst, flower-like, into rosy bloom ;
 While radiant with a mimic flame
 Outside the sparkling drift became,
 And through the bare-boughed lilac-
 tree
 Our own warm hearth seemed blazing
 free.
 The crane and pendent trammels
 showed,
 The Turks' heads on the andirons
 glowed ;
 While childish fancy, prompt to tell
 The meaning of the miracle,
 Whispered the old rhyme : “ *Under
 the tree,
 When fire outdoors burns merrily,
 There the witches are making tea.* ”

The moon above the eastern wood
 Shone at its full ; the hill-range stood
 Transfigured in the silver flood,
 Its blown snows flashing cold and keen,
 Dead white, save where some sharp
 ravine
 Took shadow, or the sombre green
 Of hemlocks turned to pitchy black
 Against the whiteness at their back.
 For such a world and such a night
 Most fitting that unwarming light,
 Which only seemed where'er it fell
 To make the coldness visible.

Shut in from all the world without,
 We sat the clean-winged hearth about,
 Content to let the north-wind roar
 In baffled rage at pane and door,
 While the red logs before us beat
 The frost-line back with tropic heat ;
 And ever, when a louder blast

Shook beam and rafter as it passed,
The merrier up its roaring draught
The great throat of the chimney
laughed,

The house-dog on his paws outspread
Laid to the fire his drowsy head,
The cat's dark silhouette on the wall
A couchant tiger's seemed to fall ;
And, for the winter fireside meet,
Between the andirons' straddling feet,
The mug of cider simmered slow,
The apples sputtered in a row,
And, close at hand, the basket stood
With nuts from brown October's wood.

What matter how the night behaved?
What matter how the north-wind
raved?

Blow high, blow low, not all its snow
Could quench our hearth-fire's ruddy
glow.

O Time and Change! — with hair as
gray
As was my sire's that winter day,
How strange it seems, with so much
gone

Of life and love, to still live on !
Ah, brother ! only I and thou
Are left of all that circle now, —
The dear home faces whereupon
That fitful firelight paled and shone.
Henceforward, listen as we will,
The voices of that hearth are still ;
Look where we may, the wide earth
o'er,

Those lighted faces smile no more.
We tread the paths their feet have
worn,

We sit beneath their orchard-trees,
We hear, like them, the hum of bees
And rustle of the bladed corn ;
We turn the pages that they read,

Their written words we linger o'er,
But in the sun they cast no shade,
No voice is heard, no sign is made,
No step is on the conscious floor !
Yet Love will dream, and Faith will
trust,
(Since He who knows our need is just,) That somehow, somewhere, meet we
must.

Alas for him who never sees
The stars shine through his cypress-
trees !

Who, hopeless, lays his dead away,
Nor looks to see the breaking day
Across the mournful marbles play !
Who hath not learned, in hours of faith,

The truth to flesh and sense unknown,
That Life is ever lord of Death,
And Love can never lose its own !

We sped the time with stories old,
Wrought puzzles out, and riddles told,
Or stammered from our school-book
lore

“The Chief of Gambia's golden shore.”
How often since, when all the land
Was clay in Slavery's shaping hand,
As if a trumpet called, I've heard
Dame Mercy Warren's rousing word :
“Does not the voice of reason cry,
Claim the first right which Nature
gave,

*From the red scourge of bondage fly,
Nor deign to live a burdened slave !”*
Our father rode again his ride
On Memphremagog's wooded side ;
Sat down again to moose and samp
In trapper's hut and Indian camp ;
Lived o'er the old idyllic ease
Beneath St. François' hemlock-trees ;
Again for him the moonlight shone
On Norman cap and bodiced zone ;
Again he heard the violin play
Which led the village dance away,
And mingled in its merry whirl
The grandam and the laughing girl.
Or, nearer home, our steps he led
Where Salisbury's level marshes spread
Mile-wide as flies the laden bee ;
Where merry mowers, hale and strong,
Swept, scythe on scythe, their swaths
along

The low green prairies of the sea.
We shared the fishing off Boar's Head,
And round the rocky Isles of Shoals
The hake-broil on the drift-wood
coals ;

The chowder on the sand-beach made,
Dipped by the hungry, steaming hot,
With spoons of clam-shell from the pot.
We heard the tales of witchcraft old,
And dream and sign and marvel told
To sleepy listeners as they lay
Stretched idly on the salted hay,
Adrift along the winding shores,
When favoring breezes deigned to blow

SNOW-BOUND.

The square sail of the gundelow
And idle lay the useless oars.

Our mother, while she turned her wheel
Or run the new-knit stocking-heel,
Told how the Indian hordes came down
At midnight on Cochecho town,
And how her own great-uncle bore
His cruel scalp-mark to fourscore.
Recalling, in her fitting phrase,
So rich and picturesque and free,
(The common unrhymed poetry
Of simple life and country ways.)
The story of her early days, —
She made us welcome to her home ;
Old hearths grew wide to give us room ;
We stole with her a frightened look
At the gray wizard's conjuring-book,
The fame whereof went far and wide
Through all the simple country side ;
We heard the hawk at twilight play,
The boat-horn on Piscataqua,
The loon's weird laughter far away :
We fished her little trout-brook, knew
What flowers in woodland meadow grew,
What sunny hillsides autumn-brown
She climbed to shake the ripe nuts down,
Saw where in sheltered cove and bay
The ducks' black squadron anchored
 lay,
And heard the wild geese calling loud
Beneath the gray November cloud.

Then, haply, with a look more grave,
And soberer tone, some tale she gave
From painful Sewell's ancient tome,
Beloved in every Quaker home,
Of faith fire-winged by martyrdom,
Or Chalkley's Journal, old and quaint, —
Gentlest of skippers, rare sea-saint ! —
Who, when the dreary calms prevailed,
And water-butt and bread-cask failed,
And cruel, hungry eyes pursued
His portly presence mad for food,
With dark hints muttered under breath
Of casting lots for life or death,
Offered, if Heaven withheld supplies,
To be himself the sacrifice.
Then, suddenly, as if to save
The good man from his living grave,
A ripple on the water grew,
A school of porpoise flashed in view.
"Take, eat," he said, "and be content ;
These fishes in my stead are sent

By Him who gave the tangled ram
To spare the child of Abraham."

Our uncle, innocent of books,
~~Was rich in lore of fields and brooks,~~
The ancient teachers never dumb
Of Nature's unhoused lyceum.
In moons and tides and weather wise,
He read the clouds as prophecies,
And foul or fair could well divine,
By many an occult hint and sign,
Holding the cunning-warded keys
To all the woodcraft mysteries ;
Himself to Nature's heart so near
That all her voices in his ear
Of beast or bird had meanings clear,
Like Apollonius of old,
Who knew the tales the sparrows told,
Or Hermes, who interpreted
What the sage cranes of Nilus said :
A simple, guileless, childlike man,
Content to live where life began ;
Strong only on his native grounds,
The little world of sights and sounds
Whose girdle was the parish bounds,
Whereof his fondly partial pride
The common features magnified,
As Surrey hills to mountains grew
In White of Selborne's loving view, —
He told how teal and loon he shot,
And how the eagle's eggs he got,
The feasts on pond and river done,
The prodigies of rod and gun ;
Till, warming with the tales he told,
Forgotten was the outside cold,
The bitter wind unheeded blew,
From ripening corn the pigeons flew,
The partridge drummed i' the wood,
 the mink
Went fishing down the river-brink.
In fields with bean or clover gay,
The woodchuck, like a hermit gray,
Peered from the doorway of his cell ;
The muskrat plied the mason's trade,
And tier by tier his mud-walls laid ;
And from the shagbark overhead
 The grizzled squirrel dropped his shell.
Next, the dear aunt, whose smile of
 cheer
And voice in dreams I see and hear, —
The sweetest woman ever Fate
Perverse denied a household mate,
Who, lonely, homeless, ~~not the less~~

Found peace in love's unselfishness,
And welcome wheresoe'er she went,
A calm and gracious element,
Whose presence seemed the sweet in-
come

And womanly atmosphere of home,—
Called up her girlhood memories,
The huskings and the apple-bees,
The sleigh-rides and the summer sails,
Weaving through all the poor details
And homespun warp of circumstance
A golden woof-thread of romance.
For well she kept her genial mood
And simple faith of maidenhood;
Before her still a cloud-land lay,
The mirage loomed across her way;
The morning dew, that dries so soon
With others, glistened at her noon;
Through years of toil and soil and care,
From glossy tress to thin gray hair,
All unprofaned she held apart
The virgin fancies of the heart.
Be shame to him of woman born
Who hath for such but thought of scorn.

There, too, our elder sister plied
Her evening task the stand beside;
A full, rich nature, free to trust,
Truthful and almost sternly just,
Impulsive, earnest, prompt to act,
And make her generous thought a fact,
Keeping with many a light disguise
The secret of self-sacrifice.
O heart sore-tried! thou hast the best
That Heaven itself could give thee, —
rest,
Rest from all bitter thoughts and things!
How many a poor one's blessing went
With thee beneath the low green tent
Whose curtain never outward swings!

As one who held herself a part
Of all she saw, and let her heart
Against the household bosom lean,
Upon the motley-braided mat
Our youngest and our dearest sat,
Lifting her large, sweet, asking eyes,
Now bathed within the fadless green
And holy peace of Paradise.
O, looking from some heavenly hill,
Or from the shade of saintly palms,
Or silver reach of river calms,
Do those large eyes behold me still?
With me one little year :—

The chill weight of the winter snow
For months upon her grave has lain;
And now, when summer south-winds
blow

And brier and harebell bloom again,
I tread the pleasant paths we trod,
I see the violet-sprinkled sod
Whereon she leaned, too frail and weak
The hillside flowers she loved to seek,
Yet following me where'er I went
With dark eyes full of love's content.
The birds are glad; the brier-rose fills
The air with sweetness; all the hills
Stretch green to June's unclouded sky;
But still I wait with ear and eye
For something gone which should be
nigh,

A loss in all familiar things,
In flower that blooms, and bird that
sings.
And yet, dear heart! remembering
thee,

Am I not richer than of old?
Safe in thy immortality,
What change can reach the wealth I
hold?

What chance can mar the pearl and
gold
Thy love hath left in trust with me?
And while in life's late afternoon,
Where cool and long the shadows
grow,

I walk to meet the night that soon
Shall shape and shadow overflow,
I cannot feel that thou art far,
Since near at need the angels are;
And when the sunset gates unbar,
Shall I not see thee waiting stand,
And, white against the evening star,
The welcome of thy beckoning hand?

Brisk wielder of the birch and rule,
The master of the district school
Held at the fire his favored place,
Its warm glow lit a laughing face
Fresh-hued and fair, where scarce ap-
peared

The uncertain prophecy of beard.
He teased the mitten-blinded cat,
Played cross-pins on my uncle's hat,
Sang songs, and told us what befalls
In classic Dartmouth's college halls.
Born the wild Northern hills among,
From whence his yeoman father wrung

By patient toil subsistence scant,
Not competence and yet not want,
He early gained the power to pay
His cheerful, self-reliant way;
Could don at ease his scholar's gown
To peddle wares from town to town;
Or through the long vacation's reach
In lonely lowland districts teach,
Where all the droll experience found
At stranger hearths in boarding round,
The moonlit skater's keen delight,
The sleigh-drive through the frosty
night,

The rustic party, with its rough
Accompaniment of blind-man's-buff,
And whirling plate, and forfeits paid,
His winter task a pastime made.
Happy the snow-locked homes wherein
He tuned his merry violin,
Or played the athlete in the barn,
Or held the good dame's winding-yarn,
Or mirth-provoking versions told
Of classic legends rare and old,
Wherein the scenes of Greece and
Rome

Had all the commonplace of home,
And little seemed at best the odds
'Twixt Yankee pedlers and old gods;
Where Pindus-born Araxes took
The guise of any grist-mill brook,
And dread Olympus at his will
Became a huckleberry hill.

A careless boy that night he seemed;
But at his desk he had the look
And air of one who wisely schemed,
And hostage from the future took
In trained thought and lore of book.
Large-brained, clear-eyed,—of such as
he

Shall Freedom's young apostles be,
Who, following in War's bloody trail,
Shall every lingering wrong assail;
All chains from limb and spirit strike,
Uplift the black and white alike;
Scatter before their swift advance
The darkness and the ignorance,
The pride, the lust, the squalid sloth,
Which nurtured Treason's monstrous
growth,
Made murder pastime, and the hell
Of prison-torture possible;
The cruel lie of caste refuse,
Old forms remould, and substitute

For Slavery's lash the freeman's will.
For blind routine, wise-handed skill;
A school-house plant on every hill,
Stretching in radiate nerve-lines thence
The quick wires of intelligence;
Till North and South together brought
Shall own the same electric thought,
In peace a common flag salute,
And, side by side in labor's free
And unresentful rivalry,
Harvest the fields wherein they fough;

Another guest that winter night
Flashed back from lustrous eyes the
light.

Unmarked by time, and yet not young,
The honeyed music of her tongue
And words of meekness scarcely told
A nature passionate and bold,
Strong, self-concentred, spurning guide,
Its milder features dwarfed beside
Her unbent will's majestic pride.
She sat among us, at the best,
A not unfear'd, half-welcome guest,
Rebuking with her cultured phrase
Our homeliness of words and ways.
A certain pard-like, treacherous grace
Swayed the lithe limbs and drooped
the lash,
Lent the white teeth their dazzling
flash;
And under low brows, black with
night,
Rayed out at times a dangerous
light;

The sharp heat-lightnings of her face
Presaging ill to him whom Fate
Condemned to share her love or hate.
A woman tropical, intense
In thought and act, in soul and sense,
She blended in a like degree
The vixen and the devotee,
Revealing with each freak or feint
The temper of Petruchio's Kate,
The raptures of Siena's saint.
Her tapering hand and rounded wrist
Had facile power to form a fist:
The warm, dark languish of her eyes
Was never safe from wrath's surprise.
Brows saintly calm and lips devout
Knew every change of scowl and pout:
And the sweet voice had notes more
high
And shrill for social battle-cry.

Since then what old cathedral town
Has missed her pilgrim staff and gown,
What convent-gate has held its lock
Against the challenge of her knock !
Through Smyrna's plague-hushed thoroughfares,
Up sea-set Malta's rocky stairs,
Gray olive slopes of hills that hem
Thy tombs and shrines, Jerusalem,
Or startling on her desert throne
The crazy Queen of Lebanon
With claims fantastic as her own,
Her tireless feet have held their way ;
And still, unrestful, bowed, and gray,
She watches under Eastern skies,

With hope each day renewed and fresh,

The Lord's quick coming in the flesh,
Whereof she dreams and prophesies !

Where'er her troubled path may be,
The Lord's sweet pity with her go !
The outward wayward life we see,
The hidden springs we may not know.
Nor is it given us to discern

What threads the fatal sisters spun,
Through what ancestral years has run
The sorrow with the woman born,
What forged her cruel chain of moods,
What set her feet in solitudes,
And held the love within her mute,
What mingled madness in the blood,
A life-long discord and annoy,
Water of tears with oil of joy,
And hid within the folded bud
Perversities of flower and fruit.

It is not ours to separate
The tangled skein of will and fate,
To show what metes and bounds should stand

Upon the soul's debatable land,
And between choice and Providence
Divide the circle of events ;
But He who knows our frame is just,
Merciful and compassionate,
And full of sweet assurances
And hope for all the language is,
That He remembereth we are dust !

At last the great logs, crumbling low,
Sent out a dull and duller glow,
The bull's-eye watch that hung in view,
Ticking its weary circuit through,
Pointed with mutely-warning sign

Its black hand to the hour of nine.
That sign the pleasant circle broke :
My uncle ceased his pipe to smoke,
Knocked from its bowl the refuse gray
And laid it tenderly away,
Then roused himself to safely cover
The dull red brands with ashes over.
And white, with care, our mother laid
The work aside, her steps she stayed
One moment, seeking to express
Her grateful sense of happiness *mother*
For food and shelter, warmth and *gray*,
health,
And love's contentment more than wealth,
With simple wishes (not the weak,
Vain prayers which no fulfilment seek,
But such as warm the generous heart,
O'er-prompt to do with Heaven its part)
That none might lack, that bitter night,
For bread and clothing, warmth and light.

Within our beds awhile we heard
The wind that round the gables roared,
With now and then a ruder shock,
Which made our very bedsteads rock.
We heard the loosened clapboards toss,
The board-nails snapping in the frost ;
And on us, through the unplastered wall,
Felt the light sifted snow-flakes fall.
But sleep stole on, as sleep will do
When hearts are light and life is new ;
Faint and more faint the murmurs grew,
Till in the summer-land of dreams
They softened to the sound of streams,
Low stir of leaves, and dip of oars,
And lapsing waves on quiet shores.

Next morn we wakened with the shout
Of merry voices high and clear ;
And saw the teamsters drawing near
To break the drifted highways out.
Down the long hillside treading slow
We saw the half-buried oxen go,
Shaking the snow from heads upstost,
Their straining nostrils white with frost.
Before our door the straggling train
Drew up, an added team to gain.
The elders threshed their hands a-cold,
Passed, with the cider-mug, their jokes
From lip to lip ; the younger folks

Down the loose snow-banks, wrestling,
rolled,
Then toiled again the cavalcade
O'er windy hill, through clogged
ravine,
And woodland paths that wound be-
tween
Low drooping pine - boughs winter-
weighed.

From every barn a team afoot,
At every house a new recruit, v
Where, drawn by Nature's subtlest law
Haply the watchful young men saw
Sweet doorway pictures of the curls
And curious eyes of merry girls,
Lifting their hands in mock defence
Against the snow-ball's compliments,
And reading in each missive toast
The charm with Eden never lost.

We heard once more the sleigh-bells'
sound ;
And, following where the teamsters
led,
The wise old Doctor went his round,
Just pausing at our door to say,
In the brief autocratic way
Of one who, prompt at Duty's call,
Was free to urge her claim on all,
That some poor neighbor sick abed
At night our mother's aid would need.
For, one in generous thought and deed,
What mattered in the sufferer's sight
The Quaker matron's inward light,
The Doctor's mail of Calvin's creed ?
All hearts confess the saints elect
Who, twain in faith, in love agree,
And melt not in an acid sect
The Christian pearl of charity !

So days went on : a week had passed
Since the great world was heard from
last.
The Almanac we studied o'er,
Read and reread our little store,
Of books and pamphlets, scarce a
score :
One harmless novel, mostly hid
From younger eyes, a book forbid,
And poetry, (or good or bad,
A single book was all we had,))
Where Ellwood's meek, drab-skirted
Muse,
A stranger to the heathen Nine,

Sang, with a somewhat nasal whine,
The wars of David and the Jews.
At last the floundering carrier bore
The village paper to our door.
Lo ! broadening outward as we read,
To warmer zones the horizon spread ;
In panoramic length unrolled
We saw the marvels that it told.
Before us passed the painted Greeks,
And dast McGregor on his raids
In Costa Rica's everglades.
And up Taygetos winding slow
Rode Ypsilanti's Mainote Greeks,
A Turk's head at each saddle-bow !
Welcome to us its week-old news,
Its corner for the rustic Muse,
Its monthly gauge of snow and rain,
Its record, mingling in a breath
The wedding knell and dirge of death ;
Jest, anecdote, and love-lorn tale,
The latest culprit sent to jail ;
Its hue and cry of stolen and lost,
Its vendue sales and goods at cost,
And traffic calling loud for gain.
We felt the stir of hall and street,
The pulse of life that round us beat ;
The chill embargo of the snow
Was melted in the genial glow :
Wide swung again our ice-locked door,
And all the world was ours once more !

Clasp, Angel of the backward look
And folded wings of ashen gray
And voice of echoes far away,
The brazen covers of thy book ;
The weird palimpsest old and vast,
Wherein thou hid'st the spectral past ;
Where, closely mingling, pale and glow
The characters of joy and woe ;
The monographs of outlived years,
Or smile-illumed or dim with tears,
Green hills of life that slope to death,
And haunts of home, whose vistaed trees
Shade off to mournful cypresses
With the white amaranths under-
neath.
Even while I look, I can but heed
The restless sands' incessant fall,
Importunate hours that hours succeed,
Each clamorous with its own sharp
need,
And duty keeping pace with all.
Shut down and clasp the heavy lids ;
I hear again the voice that bids

The dreamer leave his dream midway
For larger hopes and graver fears :
Life greatens in these later years,
The century's aloe flowers to-day !

Yet, haply, in some lull of life,
Some Truce of God which breaks its
strife,
The worldling's eyes shall gather dew,
Dreaming in throngful city ways
Of winter joys his boyhood knew ;
And dear and early friends — the few
Who yet remain — shall pause to view
These Flemish pictures of old days :

Sit with me by the homestead hearth,
And stretch the hands of memory
forth
To warm them at the wood-fire's
blaze !

And thanks untraced to lips unknown
Shall greet me like the odors blown
From unseen meadows newly mown,
Or lilies floating in some pond,
Wood-fringed, the wayside gaze beyond;
The traveller owns the grateful sense
Of sweetness near, he knows not whence,
And, pausing, takes wⁱb forehead bare
The benediction of the air.

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THE
TENT ON THE BEACH,
AND
OTHER POEMS.

1867.

I WOULD not sin, in this half-playful strain, —
Too light perhaps for serious years, though born
Of the enforced leisure of slow pain, —
Against the pure ideal which has drawn
My feet to follow its far-shining gleam.
A simple plot is mine : legends and runes
Of credulous days, old fancies that have lain
Silent from boyhood taking voice again,
Warmed into life once more, even as the tunes
That, frozen in the fabled hunting-horn,
Thawed into sound : — a winter fireside dream
Of dawns and sunsets by the summer sea,
Whose sands are traversed by a silent throng
Of voyagers from that vaster mystery
Of which it is an emblem ; — and the dear
Memory of one who might have tuned my song
To sweeter music by her delicate ear.

1st mo., 1867.

THE TENT ON THE BEACH.

WHEN heats as of a tropic clime
Burned all our inland valleys
through,
Three friends, the guests of summer
time,
Pitched their white tent where sea-
winds blew.
Behind them, marshes, seamed and
crossed
With narrow creeks, and flower-em-
bossed,
Stretched to the dark oak wood, whose
leafy arms
Screened from the stormy East the
pleasant inland farms.

At full of tide their bolder shore
Of sun-bleached sand the waters
beat ;
At ebb, a smooth and glistening floor
They touched with light, receding
feet.
Northward a green bluff broke the
chain
Of sand-hills ; southward stretched
a plain
Of salt grass, with a river winding
down,
Sail-whitened, and beyond the steeples
of the town,

Whence sometimes, when the wind
was light

And dull the thunder of the beach,
They heard the bells of morn and
night
Swing, miles away, their silver
speech.

Above low scarp and turf-grown wall
They saw the fort-flag rise and fall ;

And, the first star to signal twilight's
hour,
The lamp-fire glimmer down from the
tall light-house tower.

They rested there, escaped awhile
From cares that wear the life away,
To eat the lotus of the Nile
And drink the poppies of Cathay, —
To fling their loads of custom down,
Like drift-weed, on the sand-slopes
brown,
And in the sea waves drown the restless
pack
Of duties, claims, and needs that barked
upon their track.

One, with his beard scarce silvered,
bore
A ready credence in his looks,
A lettered magnate, lording o'er
An ever-widening realm of books.
In him brain-currents, near and far,
Converged as in a Leyden jar ;
The old, dead authors thronged him
round about,
And Elzevir's gray ghosts from leathered
graves looked out.

He knew each living pundit well,
Could weigh the gifts of him or her,
And well the market value tell
Of poet and philosopher.
But if he lost, the scenes behind,
Somewhat of reverence vague and
blind,
Finding the actors human at the best,
No readier lips than his the good he
saw confessed.

His boyhood fancies not outgrown,
He loved himself the singer's art ;

Tenderly, gently, by his own
He knew and judged an author's
heart.
No Rhadamanthine brow of doom
Bowed the dazed pedant from his
room ;
And bards, whose name is legion, if
denied,
Bore off alike intact their verses and
their pride.

Pleasant it was to roam about
The lettered world as he had done,
And see the lords of song without
Their singing robes and garlands
on.
With Wordsworth paddle Rydal
mere,
Taste rugged Elliott's home-brewed
beer,
And with the ears of Rogers, at four-
score,
Hear Garrick's buskinéd tread and
Walpole's wit once more.

And one there was, a dreamer born,
Who, with a mission to fulfil,
Had left the Muses' haunts to turn
The crank of an opinion-mill,
Making his rustic reed of song
A weapon in the war with wrong,
Yoking his fancy to the breaking-plough
That beam-deep turned the soil for
truth to spring and grow.

Too quiet seemed the man to ride
The winged Hippogriff Reform ;
Was his a voice from side to side
To pierce the tumult of the storm ?
A silent, shy, peace-loving man,
He seemed no fiery partisan
To hold his way against the public frown,
The ban of Church and State, the fierce
mob's hounding down.

For while he wrought with strenuous
will
The work his hands had found to do,
He heard the fitful music still
Of winds that out of dream-land
blew.
The din about him could not drown
What the strange voices whispered
down ;

Along his task-field weird processions
swept,
The visionary pomp of stately phantoms
stepped.

The common air was thick with
dreams, —
He told them to the toiling crowd ;
Such music as the woods and streams
Sang in his ear he sang aloud ;
In still, shut bays, on windy capes,
He heard the call of beckoning
shapes,
And, as the gray old shadows prompted
him,
To homely moulds of rhyme he shaped
their legends grim.

He rested now his weary hands,
And lightly moralized and laughed,
As, tracing on the shifting sands
A burlesque of his paper-craft,
He saw the careless waves o'errun
His words, as time before had done,
Each day's tide-water washing clean
away,
Like letters from the sand, the work of
yesterday.

And one, whose Arab face was tanned
By tropic sun and boreal frost,
So travelled there was scarce a land
Or people left him to exhaust,
In idling mood had from him hurled
The poor squeezed orange of the
world,
And in the tent-shade, as beneath a
palm,
Smoked, cross-legged like a Turk, in
Oriental calm.

The very waves that washed the sand
Below him, he had seen before
Whitening the Scandinavian strand
And sultry Mauritanian shore.
From ice-rimmed isles, from summer
seas
Palm-fringed, they bore him messa-
ges ;
He heard the plaintive Nubian songs
again,
And mule-bells tinkling down the
mountain-paths of Spain.

His memory round the ransacked earth
On Ariel's girdle slid at ease ;
And, instant, to the valley's girth
Of mountains, spice isles of the seas,
Faith flowered in minster stones,
Art's guess

At truth and beauty, found access ;
Yet loved the while, that free cosmopolite,
Old friends, old ways, and kept his boyhood's dreams in sight.

Untouched as yet by wealth and pride,
That virgin innocence of beach :
No shingly monstur, hundred-eyed,
Stared its gray sand-birds out of reach ;
Unhoused, save where, at intervals,
The white tents showed their canvas walls,
Where brief sojourners, in the cool, soft air,
Forgot their inland heats, hard toil, and year-long care.

Sometimes along the wheel-deep sand
A one-horse wagon slowly crawled,
Deep laden with a youthful band,
Whose look some homestead old recalled ;
Brother perchance, and sisters twain,
And one whose blue eyes told, more plain
Than the free language of her rosy lip,
Of the still dearer claim of love's relationship.

With cheeks of russet-orchard tint,
The light laugh of their native rills,
The perfume of their garden's mint,
The breezy freedom of the hills,
They bore, in unrestrained delight,
The motto of the Garter's knight,
Careless as if from every gazing thing
Hid by their innocence, as Uyges by his ring.

The clanging sea-fowl came and went,
The hunter's gun in the marshes rang ;
At nightfall from a neighboring tent
A flute-voiced woman sweetly sang.

Loose-haired, barefooted, hand-in-hand,
Young girls went tripping down the sand :
And youths and maidens, sitting in the moon,
Dreamed o'er the old fond dream from which we wake too soon.

At times their fishing-lines they plied,
With an old Triton at the oar,
Salt as the sea-wind, tough and dried
As a lean cusk from Labrador.
Strange tales he told of wreck and storm, —
Had seen the sea-snake's awful form,
And heard the ghosts on Haley's Isle complain,
Speak him off shore, and beg a passage to old Spain !

And there, on breezy morn, they saw
The fishing-schooners outward run,
Their low-bent sails in tack and flaw
Turned white or dark to shade and sun.
Sometimes, in calms of closing day,
They watched the spectral mirage play,
Saw low, far islands looming tall and nigh,
And ships, with upturned keels, sail like a sea the sky.

Sometimes a cloud, with thunder black,
Stooped low upon the darkening main,
Piercing the waves along its track
With the slant javelins of rain.
And when west-wind and sunshine warm
Chased out to sea its wrecks of storm,
They saw the prismatic hues in thin spray showers
Where the green buds of waves burst into white froth flowers.

And when along the line of shore
The mists crept upward chill and damp,
Stretched, careless, on their sandy floor
Beneath the flaring lantern lamp,

They talked of all things old and new,
Read, slept, and dreamed as idlers
do;
And in the unquestioned freedom of the
tent,
Body and o'er-taxed mind to healthful
ease unbent.

Once, when the sunset splendors died,
And, trampling up the sloping sand,
In lines outreaching far and wide,
The white-maned billows swept to
land,
Dim seen across the gathering shade,
A vast and ghostly cavalcade,
They sat around their lighted kerosene,
Hearing the deep bass roar their every
pause between.

Then, urged thereto, the Editor
Within his full portfolio dipped,
Feigning excuse while searching for
(With secret pride) his manuscript.
His pale face flushed from eye to beard,
With nervous cough his throat he
cleared,
And, in a voice so tremulous it betrayed
The anxious fondness of an author's
heart, he read :

THE WRECK OF RIVER-MOUTH.

RIVERMOUTH Rocks are fair to see,
By dawn or sunset shone across,
When the ebb of the sea has left them
free,
To dry their fringes of gold-green
moss :
For there the river comes winding down
From salt sea-meadows and uplands
brown,
And waves on the outer rocks afoam
Shout to its waters, " Welcome home ! "

And fair are the sunny isles in view
East of the grisly Head of the Boar,
And Agamemanticus lifts its blue
Disk of a cloud the woodlands o'er ;
And southerly, when the tide is down,
Twixt white sea-waves and sand-hills
brown,

The beach-birds dance and the gray
gulls wheel
Over a floor of burnished steel.

Once, in the old Colonial days,
Two hundred years ago and more,
A boat sailed down through the wind-
ing ways
Of Hampton River to that low shore,
Full of a goodly company
Sailing out on the summer sea,
Veerling to catch the land-breeze light,
With the Boar to left and the Rocks to
right.

In Hampton meadows, where mowers
laid
Their scythes to the swaths of salted
grass,
" Ah, well-a-day ! our hay must be
made ! "
A young man sighed, who saw them
pass.
Loud laughed his fellows to see him
stand
Whetting his scythe with a listless hand,
Hearing a voice in a far-off song,
Watching a white hand beckoning long.

" Fie on the witch ! " cried a merry
girl,
As they rounded the point where
Goody Cole
Sat by her door with her wheel atwirl,
A bent and blear-eyed poor old soul.
" Oho ! " she muttered, " ye 're brave
to-day !
But I hear the little waves laugh and
say,
' The broth will be cold that waits at
home ;
For it 's one to go, but another to
come ! ' "

" She 's cursed," said the skipper :
" speak her fair :
I 'm scary always to see her shake
Her wicked head, with its wild gray
hair,
And nose like a hawk, and eyes like
a snake."
But merrily still, with laugh and shout,
From Hampton River the boat sailed
out,

Till the huts and the flakes on Star
seemed nigh,
And they lost the scent of the pines of
Rye.

They dropped their lines in the lazy
tide,
Drawing up haddock and mottled
cod;
They saw not the Shadow that walked
beside,
They heard not the feet with silence
shod.
But thicker and thicker a hot mist
grew,
Shot by the lightnings through and
through;
And muffled growls, like the growl of a
beast,
Ran along the sky from west to east.

Then the skipper looked from the dark-
ening sea
Up to the dimmed and wading sun ;
But he spake like a brave man cheerily,
" Yet there is time for our homeward
run."
Veer ing and tacking, they backward
wore ;
And just as a breath from the woods
ashore
Blew out to whisper of danger past,
The wrath of the storm came down at
last !

The skipper hauled at the heavy sail :
" God be our help ! " he only cried,
As the roaring gale, like the stroke of a
flail,
Smote the boat on its starboard side.
The Shoalsmen looked, but saw alone
Dark films of rain-cloud slantwise
blown,
Wild rocks lit up by the lightning's
glare,
The strife and torment of sea and
air.

Goody Cole looked out from her door :
The Isles of Shoals were drowned
and gone,
Scarcely she saw the Head of the Boar
Toss the foam from tusks of stone.

She clasped her hands with a grip of
pain,
The tear on her cheek was not of rain :
" They are lost," she muttered, " boat
and crew !
Lord, forgive me ! my words were
true ! "

Suddenly seaward swept the squall ;
The low sun smote through cloudy
rack ;
The Shoals stood clear in the light, and
all
The trend of the coast lay hard and
black.
But far and wide as eye could reach,
No life was seen upon wave or beach ;
The boat that went out at morning
never
Sailed back again into Hampton
River.

O mower, lean on thy bended snath,
Look from the meadows green and
low :
The wind of the sea is a waft of death,
The waves are singing a song of woe !
By silent river, by moaning sea,
Long and vain shall thy watching be :
Never again shall the sweet voice call,
Never the white hand rise and fall !

O Rivermouth Rocks, how sad a sight
Ye saw in the light of breaking day !
Dead faces looking up cold and white
From sand and sea-weed where they
lay.
The mad old witch-wife wailed and
wept,
And cursed the tide as it backward
crept :
" Crawl back, crawl back, blue water-
snake !
Leave your dead for the hearts that
break ! "

Solemn it was in that old day
In Hampton town and its log-built
church,
Where side by side the coffins lay
And the mourners stood in aisle and
porch.

In the singing-seats young eyes were dim,
The voices faltered that raised the hymn,
And Father Dalton, grave and stern,
Sobbed through his prayer and wept in turn.

But his ancient colleague did not pray,
Because of his sin at fourscore years :
He stood apart, with the iron-gray
Of his strong brows knitted to hide
his tears.
And a wretched woman, holding her breath
In the awful presence of sin and death,
Cowered and shrank, while her neighbor thronged
To look on the dead her shame had wronged.

Apart with them, like them forbid,
Old Goody Cole looked drearily round,
As, two by two, with their faces hid,
The mourners walked to the burying-ground.
She let the staff from her clasped hands fall :
“Lord, forgive us ! we’re sinners all !”
And the voice of the old man answered her :
“Amen !” said Father Bachiler.

So, as I sat upon Appledore
In the calm of a closing summer day,
And the broken lines of Hampton shore
In purple mist of cloudland lay,
The Rivermouth Rocks their story told ;
And waves aglow with sunset gold,
Rising and breaking in steady chime,
Beat the rhythm and kept the time.

And the sunset paled, and warmed once more
With a softer, tenderer after-glow ;
In the east was moon-rise, with boats off-shore
And sails in the distance drifting slow.

The beacon glimmered from Portsmouth bar,
The White Isle kindled its great red star ;
And life and death in my old-time lay
Mingled in peace like the night and day !

“Well !” said the Man of Books,
“your story
Is really not ill told in verse.
As the Celt said of purgatory,
One might go farther and fare worse.”
The Reader smiled ; and once again
With steadier voice took up his strain,
While the fair singer from the neighboring tent
Drew near, and at his side a graceful listener bent.

THE GRAVE BY THE LAKE.

WHERE the Great Lake’s sunny smile
Dimple round its hundred isles,
And the mountain’s granite ledge
Cleaves the water like a wedge,
Ringed about with smooth, gray stones,
Rest the giant’s mighty bones.

Close beside, in shade and gleam,
Laughs and ripples Melvin stream ;
Melvin water, mountain-born,
All fair flowers its banks adorn ;
All the woodland’s voices meet,
Mingling with its murmurs sweet.

Over lowlands forest-grown,
Over waters island-strown,
Over silver-sanded beach,
Leaf-locked bay and misty reach,
Melvin stream and burial-heap,
Watch and ward the mountains keep.

Who that Titan cromlech fills ?
Forest-kaiser, lord o’ the hills ?
Knight who on the birchen tree
Carved his savage heraldry ?
Priest o’ the pine-wood temples dim,
Prophet, sage, or wizard grim ?

Rugged type of primal man,
Grin, utilitarian,
Loving woods for hunt and prowl,
Lake and hill for fish and fowl,
As the brown bear blind and dull
To the grand and beautiful :

Not for him the lesson drawn
From the mountains smit with dawn.
Star-rise, moon-rise, flowers of May,
Sunset's purple bloom of day,—
Took his life no hue from thence,
Poor amid such affluence ?

Haply unto hill and tree
All too near akin was he :
Unto him who stands afar
Nature's marvels greatest are ;
Who the mountain purple seeks
Must not climb the higher peaks.

Yet who knows in winter tramp,
Or the midnight of the camp,
What revealings faint and far,
Stealing down from moon and star,
Kindled in that human clod
Thought of destiny and God ?

Stateliest forest patriarch,
Grand in robes of skin and bark,
What sepulchral mysteries,
What weird funeral-rites, were his ?
What sharp wail, what drear lament,
Back scared wolf and eagle sent ?

Now, whate'er he may have been,
Low he lies as other men ;
On his mound the partridge drums,
There the noisy blue-jay comes ;
Rank nor name nor pomp has he
In the grave's democracy.

Part thy blue lips, Northern lake !
Moss-grown rocks, your silence break !
Tell the tale, thou ancient tree !
Thou, too, slide-worn Ossipee !
Speak, and tell us how and when
Lived and died this king of men !

Wordless moans the ancient pine ;
Lake and mountain give no sign ;
Vain to trace this ring of stones ;
Vain the search of crumbling bones :
Deepest of all mysteries,
And the saddest, silence is.

Nameless, noteless, clay with clay
Mingles slowly day by day ;
But somewhere, for good or ill,
That dark soul is living still ;
Somewhere yet that atom's force
Moves the light-poised universe.

Strange that on his burial-sod
Harebells bloom, and golden-rod,
While the soul's dark horoscope
Holds no starry sign of hope !
Is the Unseen with sight at odds ?
Nature's pity more than God's ?

Thus I mused by Melvin's side,
While the summer eventide
Made the woods and inland sea
And the mountains mystery ;
And the hush of earth and air
Seemed the pause before a prayer, —

Prayer for him, for all who rest,
Mother Earth, upon thy breast, —
Lapped on Christian turf, or hid
In rock-cave or pyramid :
All who sleep, as all who live,
Well may need the prayer, "Forgive !"

Desert-smothered caravan,
Knee-deep dust that once was man,
Battle-trenches ghastly piled,
Ocean-floors with white bones tiled,
Crowded tomb and mounded sod,
Dumbly crave that prayer to God.

O the generations old
Over whom no church-bells tolled,
Christless, lifting up blind eyes
To the silence of the skies !
For the innumerable dead
Is my soul disquieted.

Where be now these silent hosts ?
Where the camping-ground of ghosts ?
Where the spectral conscripts led
To the white tents of the dead ?
What strange shore or chartless sea
Holds the awful mystery ?

Then the warm sky stooped to make
Double sunset in the lake ;
While above I saw with it,
Range on range, the mountains lit ;
And the calm and splendor stole
Like an answer to my soul.

Hear'st thou, O of little faith,
What to thee the mountain saith,
What is whispered by the trees?—
"Cast on God thy care for these;
Trust him, if thy sight be dim:
Doubt for them is doubt of Him.

"Blind must be their close-shut eyes
Where like night the sunshine lies,
Fiery-linked the self-forged chain
Binding ever sin to pain,
Strong their prison-house of will,
But without He waiteth still.

"Not with hatred's undertow
Doth the Love Eternal flow;
Every chain that spirits wear
Crumbles in the breath of prayer;
And the penitent's desire
Opens every gate of fire.

"Still Thy love, O Christ arisen,
Yearns to reach these souls in prison!
Through all depths of sin and loss
Drops the plummet of Thy cross!
Never yet abyss was found
Deeper than that cross could sound!"

Therefore well may Nature keep
Equal faith with all who sleep,
Set her watch of hills around
Christian grave and heathen mound,
And to cairn and kirkyard send
Summer's flowery dividend.

Keep, O pleasant Melvin stream,
Thy sweet laugh in shade and gleam!
On the Indian's grassy tomb
Swing, O flowers, your bells of bloom!
Deep below, as high above,
Sweeps the circle of God's love.

He paused and questioned with his eye

The hearers' verdict on his song.
A low voice asked: "Is't well to pry
Into the secrets which belong
Only to God? — The life to be
Is still the unguessed mystery:
Unscaled, unpierced the cloudy walls
remain,
We beat with dream and wish the soundless doors in vain.

"But faith beyond our sight may go."

He said: "The gracious Fatherhood
Can only know above, below,
Eternal purposes of good.
From our free heritage of will,
The bitter springs of pain and ill
Flow only in all worlds. The perfect day
Of God is shadowless, and love is love
alway."

"I know," she said, "the letter kills;
That on our arid fields of strife
And heat of clashing texts distils
The dew of spirit and of life.
But, searching still the written Word,
I fain would find, Thus saith the Lord,
A voucher for the hope I also feel
That sin can give no wound beyond
love's power to heal."

"Pray," said the Man of Books, "give
o'er

A theme too vast for time and place.
Go on, Sir Poet, ride once more
Your hobby at his old free pace.
But let him keep, with step discreet,
The solid earth beneath his feet.

In the great mystery which around us
lies,
The wisest is a fool, the fool Heaven-
helped is wise."

The Traveller said: "If songs have
creeds,
Their choice of them let singers
make;

But Art no other sanction needs
Than beauty for its own fair sake.
It grinds not in the mill of use,
Nor asks for leave, nor begs excuse:
It maketh the flexible laws it designs to own,
And gives its atmosphere its color and
its tone.

"Confess, old friend, your austere
school

Has left your fancy little chance;
You square to reason's rigid rule
The flowing outlines of romance.
With conscience keen from exercise,
And chronic fear of compromise,
You check the free play of your rhymes,
to clap
A moral underneath, and spring it like
a trap."

The sweet voice answered: " Better so
Than bolder flights that know no
check ;
Better to use the bit, than throw
The reins all loose on fancy's neck.
The liberal range of Art should be
The breadth of Christian liberty,
Restrained alone by challenge and alarm
Where its charmed footsteps tread the
border land of harm.

" Beyond the poet's sweet dream
lives
The eternal epic of the man.
He wisest is who only gives,
True to himself, the best he can :
Who, drifting in the winds of praise,
The inward monitor obeys ;
And, with the boldness that confesses
fear,
Takes in the crowded sail, and lets his
conscience steer.

" Thanks for the fitting word he speaks,
Nor less for doubtful word unspon-
ken ;
For the false model that he breaks,
As for the moulded grace unbro-
ken ;
For what is missed and what remains,
For losses which are truest gains,
For reverence conscious of the Eternal
eye,
And truth too fair to need the garnish
of a lie."

Laughing, the Critic bowed. " I
yield
The point without another word ;
Who ever yet a case appealed
Where beauty's judgment had been
heard ?
And you, my good friend, owe to me
Your warmest thanks for such a plea,
As true withal as sweet. For my offence
Of cavil, let her words be ample recom-
pense."

Across the sea one light-house star,
With crimson ray that came and
went,
Revolving on its tower afar,
Looked through the doorway of the
tent.

While outward, over sand-slopes wet,
The lamp flashed down its yellow jet
On the long wash of waves, with red
and green
Tangles of weeping weed through the
white foam-wreaths seen.

" ' Sing while we may, — another day
May bring enough of sorrow ' ; —
thus
Our Traveller in his own sweet lay,
His Crimean camp-song, hints to
us,"
The lady said. " So let it be ;
Sing us a song," exclaimed all three.
She smiled : " I can but marvel at your
choice
To hear our poet's words through my
poor borrowed voice."

Her window opens to the bay,
On glistening light or misty gray,
And there at dawn and set of day
In prayer she kneels :
" Dear Lord ! " she saith, " to many a
home
From wind and wave the wanderers
come ;
I only see the tossing foam
Of stranger keels.

" Blown out and in by summer gales,
The stately ships, with crowded sails,
And sailors leaning o'er their rails,
Before me glide ;
They come, they go, but nevermore,
Spice-laden from the Indian shore,
I see his swift-winged Isidore
The waves divide.

" O Thou ! with whom the night is day
And one the near and far away,
Look out on yon gray waste, and say
Where lingers he.
Alive, perchance, on some lone beach
Or thirsty isle beyond the reach
Of man, he hears the mocking speech
Of wind and sea.

" O dread and cruel deep, reveal
The secret which thy waves conceal,
And, ye wild sea-birds, hither wheel
And tell your tale.

Let winds that tossed his raven hair
A message from my lost one bear,—
Some thought of me, a last fond prayer
Or dying wail !

"Come, with your dearest truth shut
out
The fears that haunt me round about;
O God ! I cannot bear this doubt
That stifles breath.
The worst is better than the dread;
Give me but leave to mourn my dead
Asleep in trust and hope, instead
Of life in death !"

It might have been the evening breeze
That whispered in the garden trees,
It might have been the sound of seas
That rose and fell ;
But, with her heart, if not her ear,
The old loved voice she seemed to hear :
"I wait to meet thee : be of cheer
For all is well !"

The sweet voice into silence went,
A silence which was almost pain
As through it rolled the long lament,
The cadence of the mournful main.
Glancing his written pages o'er,
The Reader tried his part once more ;
Leaving the land of hackmatack and
pine
For Tuscan valleys glad with olive and
with vine.

THE BROTHER OF MERCY.

PIERO LUCA, known of all the town
As the gray porter by the Pitti wall
Where the noon shadows of the gardens
fall,
Sick and in dolor, waited to lay down
His last sad burden, and beside his
mat
The barefoot monk of La Certosa sat.

Unseen, in square and blossoming
garden drifted,
Soft sunset lights through green Val
d'Arno sifted ;
Unheard, below the living shuttles
shifted

Backward and forth, and wove, in love
or strife,
In mirth or pain, the mottled web of
life :
But when at last came upward from
the street
Tinkle of bell and tread of measured
feet,
The sick man started, strove to rise in
vain,
Sinking back heavily with a moan of
pain.
And the monk said, "T is but the
Brotherhood
Of Mercy going on some errand good :
Their black masks by the palace-wall !
see."
Piero answered faintly, "Woe is me !
This day for the first time in forty years
In vain the bell hath sounded in my
ears,
Calling me with my brethren of the
mask,
Beggar and prince alike, to some new
task
Of love or pity, — haply from the street
To bear a wretch plague-stricken, or,
with feet
Hushed to the quickened ear and fever-
ish brain,
To tread the crowded lazaretto's floors,
Down the long twilight of the corridors,
Midst tossing arms and faces full of
pain.
I loved the work : it was its own re-
ward.
I never counted on it to offset
My sins, which are many, or make
less my debt
To the free grace and mercy of our
Lord ;
But somehow, father, it has come to
be
In these long years so much a part of me,
I should not know myself, if lacking it,
But with the work the worker too would
die,
And in my place some other self would
sit
Joyful or sad, — what matters, if not I ?
And now all's over. Woe is me !"—
"My son,"
The monk said soothingly, "thy work
is done ;

And no more as a servant, but the guest
Of God thou enterest thy eternal rest.
No toil, no tears, no sorrow for the lost
Shall mar thy perfect bliss. Thou
shalt sit down
Clad in white robes, and wear a golden
crown
Forever and forever." — Piero tossed
On his sick-pillow : " Miserable me !
I am too poor for such grand company ;
The crown would be too heavy for this
gray
Old head ; and God forgive me if I say
It would be hard to sit there night and
day,
Like an image in the Tribune, doing
naught
With these hard hands, that all my life
have wrought,
Not for bread only, but for pity's sake.
I'm dull at prayers : I could not keep
awake,
Counting my beads. Mine's but a
crazy head,
Scarce worth the saving, if all else be
dead.
And if one goes to heaven without a
heart,
God knows he leaves behind his better
part.
I love my fellow-men ; the worst I know
I would do good to. Will death change
me so
That I shall sit among the lazy saints,
Turning a deaf ear to the sore complaints
Of souls that suffer ? Why, I never yet
Left a poor dog in the *strada* hard beset,
Or ass o'erladen ! Must I rate man less
Than dog or ass, in holy selfishness ?
Methinks (Lord, pardon, if the thought
be sin !)
The world of pain were better, if therein
One's heart might still be human, and
desires
Of natural pity drop upon its fires
Some cooling tears."
Thereat the pale monk crossed
His brow, and, muttering, " Madman !
thou art lost !"
Took up his pyx and fled ; and, left alone,
The sick man closed his eyes with a
great groan
That sank into a prayer, " Thy will be
done ! "

Then was he made aware, by soul or
ear,
Of somewhat pure and holy bending
o'er him,
And of a voice like that of her who bore
him,
Tender and most compassionate :
" Never fear !
For heaven is love, as God himself is
love ;
Thy work below shall be thy work
above."
And when he looked, lo ! in the stern
monk's place
He saw the shining of an angel's face !

The Traveller broke the pause. " I've
seen
The Brothers down the long street
steal,
Black, silent, masked, the crowd be-
tween,
And felt to doff my hat and kneel
With heart, if not with knee, in prayer,
For blessings on their pious care."
The Reader wiped his glasses :
" Friends of mine,
We'll try our home-brewed next, in-
stead of foreign wine."

THE CHANGELING.

For the fairest maid in Hampton
They needed not to search,
Who saw young Anna Favor
Come walking into church, —

Or bringing from the meadows,
At set of harvest-day,
The frolic of the blackbirds,
The sweetness of the hay.

Now the weariest of all mothers,
The saddest two-years bride,
She scowls in the face of her husband,
And spurns her child aside.

" Rake out the red coals, goodman, —
For there the child shall lie,
Till the black witch comes to fetch her,
And both up chimney fly.

" It's never my own little daughter,
It's never my own," she said;
" The witches have stolen my Anna,
And left me an imp instead.

" O, fair and sweet was my baby,
Blue eyes, and hair of gold;
But this is ugly and wrinkled,
Cross, and cunning, and old.

" I hate the touch of her fingers,
I hate the feel of her skin;
It's not the milk from my bosom,
But my blood, that she sucks in.

" My face grows sharp with the torment;
Look! my arms are skin and bone! —
Rake open the red coals, goodman,
And the witch shall have her own.

" She'll come when she hears it crying,
In the shape of an owl or bat,
And she'll bring us our darling Anna
In place of her screeching brat."

Then the goodman, Ezra Dalton,
Laid his hand upon her head:
" Thy sorrow is great, O woman!
I sorrow with thee," he said.

" The paths to trouble are many,
And never but one sure way
Leads out to the light beyond it:
My poor wife, let us pray."

Then he said to the great All-Father,
" Thy daughter is weak and blind;
Let her sight come back, and clothe her
Once more in her right mind.

" Lead her out of this evil shadow,
Out of these fancies wild;
Let the holy love of the mother
Turn again to her child.

" Make her lips like the lips of Mary
Kissing her blessed Son;
Let her hands, like the hands of Jesus,
Rest on her little one.

" Comfort the soul of thy handmaid,
Open her prison-door,
And thine shall be all the glory
And praise forevermore."

Then into the face of its mother
The baby looked up and smiled;
And the cloud of her soul was lifted,
And she knew her little child.

A beam of the slant west sunshine
Made the wan face almost fair,
Lit the blue eyes' patient wonder,
And the rings of pale gold hair.

She kissed it on lip and forehead,
She kissed it on cheek and chin,
And she bared her snow-white bosom
To the lips so pale and thin.

O, fair on her bridal morning
Was the maid who blushed and
smiled,
But fairer to Ezra Dalton
Looked the mother of his child.

With more than a lover's fondness
He stooped to her worn young face,
And the nursing child and the mother
He folded in one embrace.

" Blessed be God!" he murmured.
" Blessed be God!" she said;
" For I see, who once was blinded, —
I live, who once was dead.

" Now mount and ride, my goodman,
As thou lovest thy own soul!
Woe's me, if my wicked fancies
Be the death of Goody Cole!"

His horse he saddled and bridled,
And into the night rode he, —
Now through the great black woodland,
Now by the white-beached sea.

He rode through the silent clearings,
He came to the ferry wide,
And thrice he called to the boatman
Asleep on the other side.

He set his horse to the river,
He swam to Newbury town,
And he called up Justice Sewall
In his nightcap and his gown.

And the grave and worshipful justices
(Upon whose soul be peace!)
Set his name to the jailer's warrant
For Goodwife Cole's release.

Then through the night the hoof-beats
Went sounding like a flail ;
And Goody Cole at cockcrow
Came forth from Ipswich jail.

"Here is a rhyme : — I hardly dare
To venture on its theme worn out ;
What seems so sweet by Doon and
Ayr
Sounds simply silly hereabout ;
And pipes by lips Arcadian blown
Are only tin horns at our own.
Yet still the muse of pastoral walks
with us,
While Hosea Biglow sings, our new
Theocritia."

THE MAIDS OF ATTITASH.

In sky and wave the white clouds swam,
And the blue hills of Nottingham
Through gaps of leafy green
Across the lake were seen, —

When, in the shadow of the ash
That dreams its dream in Attitash,
In the warm summer weather,
Two maidens sat together.

They sat and watched in idle mood
The gleam and shade of lake and
wood, —
The beach the keen light smote,
The white sail of a boat, —

Swan flocks of lilies shoreward lying,
In sweetness, not in music, dying, —
Hardhack, and virgin's-bower,
And white-spiked clethra-flower.

With careless ears they heard theplash
And breezy wash of Attitash,
The wood-bird's plaintive cry,
The locust's sharp reply.

And teased the while, with playful hand,
The shaggy dog of Newfoundland,
Whose uncouth frolic spilled
Their baskets berry-filled.

Then one, the beauty of whose eyes
Was evermore a great surprise,
Tossed back her queenly head,
And, lightly laughing, said, —

"No bridegroom's hand be mine to
hold
That is not lined with yellow gold ;
I tread no cottage-floor ;
I own no lover poor.

"My love must come on silken wings,
With bridal lights of diamond rings, —
Not foul with kitchen smirch,
With tallow-dip for torch."

The other, on whose modest head
Was lesser dower of beauty shed,
With look for home-hearths meet,
And voice exceeding sweet,

Answered, — "We will not rivals be ;
Take thou the gold, leave love to me ;
Mine be the cottage small,
And thine the rich man's hall.

"I know, indeed, that wealth is good ;
But lowly roof and simple food,
With love that hath no doubt,
Are more than gold without."

Hard by a farmer hale and young
His cradle in the rye-field swung,
Tracking the yellow plain
With windrows of ripe grain.

And still, whene'er he paused to whet
His scythe, the sidelong glance he met
Of large dark eyes, where strove
False pride and secret love.

Be strong, young mower of the grain ;
That love shall overmatch disdain,
Its instincts soon or late
The heart shall vindicate.

In blouse of gray, with fishing-rod,
Half screened by leaves, a stranger trod
The margin of the pond,
Watching the group beyond.

The supreme hours unnoted come ;
Unfelt the turning tides of doom ;
And so the maids laughed on,
Nor dreamed what Fate had done, —

Nor knew the step was Destiny's
That rustled in the birchen trees,
As, with their lives forecast,
Fisher and mower passed.

Ere long by lake and rivulet side
The summer roses paled and died,
And Autumn's fingers shed
The maple's leaves of red.

Through the long gold-hazed afternoon,
Alone, but for the diving loon,
The partridge in the brake,
The black duck on the lake,

Beneath the shadow of the ash
Sat man and maid by Attitash ;
And earth and air made room
For human hearts to bloom.

Soft spread the carpets of the sod,
And scarlet-oak and golden-rod
With blushes and with smiles
Lit up the forest aisles.

The mellow light the lake aslant,
The pebbled margin's ripple-chant
Attempered and low-toned,
The tender mystery owned.

And through the dream the lovers
dreamed
Sweet sounds stole in and soft lights
streamed ;
The sunshine seemed to bless,
The air was a caress.

Not she who lightly laughed is there,
With scornful toss of midnight hair,
Her dark, disdainful eyes,
And proud lip worldly-wise.

Her haughty vow is still unsaid,
But all she dreamed and coveted
Wears, half to her surprise,
The youthful farmer's guise !

With more than all her old-time pride
She walks the rye-field at his side,
Careless of cot or hall,
Since love transfigures all.

Rich beyond dreams, the vantage-ground
Of life is gained ; her hands have found
The talisman of old
That changes all to gold.

While she who could for love dispense
With all its glittering accidents,
And trust her heart alone,
Finds love and gold her own.

What wealth can buy or art can build
Awaits her ; but her cup is filled
Even now unto the brim ;
Her world is love and him !

The while he heard, the Book-man
drew
A length of make-believing face,
With smothered mischief laughing
through :
“ Why, you shall sit in Ramsay’s
place,
And, with his Gentle Shepherd, keep
On Yankee hills immortal sheep,
While love-lorn swains and maids the
seas beyond
Hold dreamy tryst around your huck-
leberry-pond.”

The Traveller laughed ; “ Sir Galahad
had
Singing of love the Trouvere’s lay !
How should he know the blindfold lad
From one of Vulcan’s forge-boys ? ”
— “ Nay,
He better sees who stands outside
Than they who in procession ride,”
The Reader answered : “ selectmen
and squire
Miss, while they make, the show that
wayside folks admire.

“ Here is a wild tale of the North,
Our travelled friend will own as one
Fit for a Norland Christmas hearth
And lips of Christian Andersen.
They tell it in the valleys green
Of the fair island he has seen,
Low lying off the pleasant Swedish
shore,
Washed by the Baltic Sea, and watched
by Elsinore.”

KALLUNDBORG CHURCH.

"*Tie stille, barn min !
Imorgen kommer Fin,
Fa'er din,*

*Og gl'ær dig Esbern Snare öine og hjerte
at lege med!"*

Zealand Rhyme.

"BUILD at Kallundborg by the sea
A church as stately as church may be,
And there shalt thou wed my daughter
fair,"
Said the Lord of Nesvek to Esbern
Snare.

And the Baron laughed. But Esbern
said,
"Though I lose my soul, I will Helva
wed!"
And off he strode, in his pride of will,
To the Troll who dwelt in Ulshoi hill.

"Build, O Troll, a church for me
At Kallundborg by the mighty sea;
Build it stately, and build it fair,
Build it quickly," said Esbern Snare.

But the sly Dwarf said, "No work is
wrought
By Trolls of the Hills, O man, for
naught.
What wilt thou give for thy church so
fair?"
"Set thy own price," quoth Esbern
Snare.

"When Kallundborg church is builded
well,
Thou must the name of its builder tell,
Or thy heart and thy eyes must be my
boon."
"Build," said Esbern, "and build it
soon."

By night and by day the Troll wrought
on:
He hewed the timbers, he piled the
stone;
But day by day, as the walls rose fair,
Darker and sadder grew Esbern Snare.

He listened by night, he watched by day,
He sought and thought, but he dared
not pray;

In vain he called on the Elle-maids shy,
And the Neck and the Nis gave no
reply.

Of his evil bargain far and wide
A rumor ran through the country-side;
And Helva of Nesvek, young and fair,
Prayed for the soul of Esbern Snare.

And now the church was wellnigh done;
One pillar it lacked, and one alone;
And the grim Troll muttered, "Fool
thou art!
To-morrow gives me thy eyes and
heart!"

By Kallundborg in black despair,
Through wood and meadow, walked
Esbern Snare,
Till, worn and weary, the strong man
sank
Under the birches on Ulshoi bank.

At his last day's work he heard the Troll
Hammer and delve in the quarry's hole;
Before him the church stood large and
fair:
"I have builded my tomb," said Es-
bern Snare.

And he closed his eyes the sight to hide,
When he heard a light step at his side:
"O Esbern Snare!" a sweet voice said.
"Would I might die now in thy stead!"

With a grasp by love and by fear made
strong,
He held her fast, and he held her long;
With the beating heart of a bird afeard,
She hid her face in his flame-red beard.

"O love!" he cried, "let me look to-
day
In thine eyes ere mine are plucked away;
Let me hold thee close, let me feel thy
heart
Ere mine by the Troll is torn apart!

"I sinned, O Helva, for love of thee!
Pray that the Lord Christ pardon me!"
But fast as she prayed, and faster still,
Hammered the Troll in Ulshoi hill.

He knew, as he wrought, that a loving heart
Was somehow baffling his evil art ;
For more than spell of Elf or Troll
Is a maiden's prayer for her lover's soul.

And Esbern listened, and caught the sound
Of a Troll-wife singing underground :
" To-morrow comes Fine, father thine :
Lie still and hush thee, baby mine ! "

" Lie still, my darling ! next sunrise
Thou'll play with Esbern Snare's heart and eyes ! "

" Ho ! ho ! " quoth Esbern, " is that your game ?
Thanks to the Troll-wife, I know his name ! "

The Troll he heard him, and hurried on
To Kallundborg church with the lacking stone.

" Too late, Gaffer Fine ! " cried Esbern Snare :
And Troll and pillar vanished in air !

That night the harvesters heard the sound
Of a woman sobbing underground,
And the voice of the Hill-Troll loud with blame

Of the careless singer who told his name.

Of the Troll of the Church they sing the rune
By the Northern Sea in the harvest moon ;
And the fishers of Zealand hear him still
Scolding his wife in Ulshoi hill.

And seaward over its groves of birch
Still looks the tower of Kallundborg church,
Where, first at its altar, a wedded pair,
Stood Helva of Nesvek and Esbern Snare !

" What, " asked the Traveller, " would our sires,
The old Norse story-tellers, say

Of sun-graved pictures, ocean wires,
And smoking steamboats of to-day ?
And this, O lady, by your leave,
Recalls your song of yester eve :
Pray, let us have that Cable-hymn once more."

" Hear, hear ! " the Book-man cried,
" the lady has the floor.

" These noisy waves below perhaps
To such a strain will lend their ear,
With softer voice and lighter lapse
Come stealing up the sands to hear,
And what they once refused to do
For old King Knut accord to you.
Nay, even the fishes shall your listeners be,
As once, the legend runs, they heard
St. Anthony."

O lonely bay of Trinity,
O dreary shores, give ear !
Lean down unto the white-lipped sea
The voice of God to hear !

From world to world his carriers fly,
Thought-winged and shun with fire ;
The angel of His stormy sky
Rides down the sunken wire.

What saith the herald of the Lord ?
" The world's long strife is done :
Close wedded by that mystic cord,
Its continents are one.

" And one in heart, as one in blood,
Shall all her peoples be ;
The hands of human brotherhood
Are clasped beneath the sea.

" Through Orient seas, o'er Afric's plain
And Asian mountains borne,
The vigor of the Northern brain
Shall nerve the world outworn.

" From clime to clime, from shore to shore,
Shall thrill the magic thread :
The new Prometheus steals once more
The fire that wakes the dead."

Throb on, strong pulse of thunder ! beat
From answering beach to beach ;
Fuse nations in thy kindly heat,
And melt the chains of each !

Wild terror of the sky above,
Glide tamed and dumb below !
Bear gently, Ocean's carrier-dove,
Thy errands to and fro.

Weave on, swift shuttle of the Lord,
Beneath the deep so far,
The bridal robe of earth's accord,
The funeral shroud of war !

For lo ! the fall of Ocean's wall
Space mocked and time outrun :
And round the world the thought of all
Is as the thought of one !

The poles unite, the zones agree,
The tongues of striving cease ;
As on the Sea of Galilee
The Christ is whispering, Peace !

" Glad prophecy ! to this at last,"
The Reader said, " shall all things
come.
Forgotten be the bugle's blast,
And battle-music of the drum.
A little while the world may run
Its old mad way, with needle-gun
And iron-clad, but truth, at last, shall
reign :
The cradle-song of Christ was never
sung in vain ! "

Shifting his scattered papers, "Here,"
He said, as died the faint applause,
" Is something that I found last year
Down on the island known as Orr's.
I had it from a fair-haired girl
Who, oddly, bore the name of Pearl,
(As if by some droll freak of circum-
stance.)
Classic, or wellnigh so, in Harriet
Stowe's romance."

THE DEAD SHIP OF HARPS- WELL.

WHAT flecks the outer gray beyond
The sundown's golden trail ?

The white flash of a sea-bird's wing,
Or gleam of slanting sail ?
Let young eyes watch from Neck and
Point,

And sea-worn elders pray,—
The ghost of what was once a ship
Is sailing up the bay !

From gray sea-fog, from icy drift,
From peril and from pain,
The home-bound fisher greets thy lights,
O hundred-harbored Maine !
But many a keel shall seaward turn,
And many a sail outstand,
When, tall and white, the Dead Ship
looms
Against the dusk of land.

She rounds the headland's bristling
pines :
She threads the isle-set bay ;
No spur of breeze can speed her on,
Nor ebb of tide delay.
Old men still walk the Isle of Orr.
Who tell her date and name,
Old shipwrights sit in Freeport yards
Who hewed her oaken frame.

What weary doom of baffled quest,
Thou sad sea-ghost, is thine ?
What makes thee in the haunts of home
A wonder and a sign ?
No foot is on thy silent deck,
Upon thy helm no hand ;
No ripple hath the soundless wind
That smites thee from the land !

For never comes the ship to port,
How'er the breeze may be ;
Just when she nears the waiting shore
She drifts again to sea.
No tack of sail, nor turn of helm,
Nor sheer of veering side ;
Stern-fore she drives to sea and night,
Against the wind and tide.

In vain o'er Harpswell Neck the star
Of evening guides her in ;
In vain for her the lamps are lit
Within thy tower, Seguin !
In vain the harbor-boat shall hail,
In vain the pilot call ;
No hand shall reef her spectral sail,
Or let her anchor fall.

Shake, brown old wives, with dreary
joy,
Your gray-head hints of ill;
And, over sick-beds whispering low,
Your prophecies fulfil.
Some home amid you birchen trees
Shall drape its door with woe;
And slowly where the Dead Ship sails,
The burial boat shall row!

From Wolf Neck and from Flying
Point.

From island and from main,
From sheltered cove and tided creek,
Shall glide the funeral train.
The dead-boat with the bearers four,
The mourners at her stern,—
And one shall go the silent way
Who shall no more return!

And men shall sigh, and women weep,
Whose dear ones pale and pine,
And sadly over sunset seas
Await the ghostly sign.
They know not that its sails are filled
By pity's tender breath,
Nor see the Angel at the helm
Who steers the Ship of Death!

"Chill as a down-east breeze should
be,"

The Book-man said. "A ghostly
touch

The legend has. I'm glad to see
Your flying Yankee beat the Dutch."
"Well, here is something of the sort
Which one midsummer day I caught
In Narragansett Bay, for lack of fish."
"We wait," the Traveller said; "serve
hot or cold your dish."

THE PALATINE.

LEAGUES north, as fly the gull and auk,
Point Judith watches with eye of hawk;
Leagues south, thy beacon flames,
Montauk!

Lonely and wind-shorn, wood-forsaken,
With never a tree for Spring to waken,
For tryst of lovers or farewells taken,

Circled by waters that never freeze,
Beaten by billow and swept by breeze,
Lieth the island of Manisees,

Set at the mouth of the Sound to hold
The coast lights up on its turret old,
Yellow with moss and sea-fog mould.

Dreary the land when gust and sleet
At its doors and windows howl and beat,
And Winter laughs at its fires of peat!

But in summer time, when pool and
pond,
Held in the laps of valleys fond,
Are blue as the glimpses of sea beyond;

When the hills are sweet with the
brier-rose,
And, hid in the warm, soft dells, unclose
Flowers the main-land rarely knows;

When boats to their morning fishing go,
And, held to the wind and slanting low,
Whitening and darkening the small
sails show,—

Then is that lonely island fair:
And the pale health-seeker findeth there
The wine of life in its pleasant air.

No greener valleys the sun invite,
On smoother beaches no sea-birds light,
No blue waves shatter to foam more
white!

There, circling ever their narrow range,
Quaint tradition and legend strange
Live on unchallenged, and know no
change.

Old wives spinning their webs of tow,
Or rocking weirdly to and fro
In and out of the peat's dull glow,

And old men mending their nets of
twine,
Talk together of dream and sign,
Talk of the lost ship Palatine,—

The ship that, a hundred years before,
Freighted deep with its goodly store,
In the gales of the equinox went ashore.

The eager islanders one by one
Counted the shots of her signal gun,
And heard the crash when she drove
right on !

Into the teeth of death she sped :
(May God forgive the hands that fed
The false lights over the rocky Head !)

O men and brothers ! what sights were
there !
White up-turned faces, hands stretched
in prayer !
Where waves had pity, could ye not
spare ?

Down swooped the wreckers, like birds
of prey
Tearing the heart of the ship away,
And the dead had never a word to say.

And then, with ghastly shimmer and
shine
Over the rocks and the seething brine,
They burned the wreck of the Palatine.

In their cruel hearts, as they homeward
sped,
"The sea and the rocks are dumb,"
they said :
"There'll be no reckoning with the
dead."

But the year went round, and when
once more
Along their foam-white curves of shore
They heard the line-storm rave and roar,

Behold ! again, with shimmer and shine,
Over the rocks and the seething brine,
The flaming wreck of the Palatine !

So, haply in fitter words than these,
Mending their nets on their patient
knees
They tell the legend of Manisees.

Nor looks nor tones a doubt betray ;
"It is known to us all," they quietly
say ;
"We too have seen it in our day."

Is there, then, no death for a word
once spoken ?
Was never a deed but left its token
Written on tables never broken ?

Do the elements subtle reflections give ?
Do pictures of all the ages live
On Nature's infinite negative,

Which, half in sport, in malice half,
She shows at times, with shudder or
laugh,
Phantom and shadow in photograph ?

For still, on many a moonless night,
From Kingston Head and from Mon-
tauk light
The spectre kindles and burns in sight.

Now low and dim, now clear and higher,
Leaps up the terrible Ghost of Fire,
Then, slowly sinking, the flames expire.

And the wise Sound skippers, though
skies be fine,
Reef their sails when they see the sign
Of the blazing wreck of the Palatine !

"A fitter tale to scream than sing,"
The Book-man said. "Well, fan-
cy, then,"
The Reader answered, "on the wing
The sea-birds shriek it, not for
men,

But in the ear of wave and breeze !" "
The Traveller mused : "Your Mani-
sees

Is fairy-land : off Narragansett shore
Who ever saw the isle or heard its
name before ?

"'T is some strange land of Fly-
away,
Whose dreamy shore the ship be-
guiles,

St. Brandan's in its sea-mist gray,
Or sunset loom of Fortunate Isles !"
"No ghost, but solid turf and rock,
Is the good island known as Block,"
The Reader said. "For beauty and
for ease

I chose its Indian name, soft-flowing
Manisees !

"But let it pass ; here is a bit
 Of unrhymed story, with a hint
 Of the old preaching mood in it,
 The sort of sidelong moral squint
 Our friend objects to, which has
 grown,
 I fear, a habit of my own.
 'T was written when the Asian plague
 drew near,
 And the land held its breath and paled
 with sudden fear."

ABRAHAM DAVENPORT.

In the old days (a custom laid aside
 With breeches and cocked hats) the
 people sent
 Their wisest men to make the public
 laws.
 And so, from a brown homestead, where
 the Sound
 Drinks the small tribute of the Mianas,
 Waved over by the woods of Rippowams,
 And hallowed by pure lives and tran-
 quil deaths,
 Stamford sent up to the councils of the
 State
 Wisdom and grace in Abraham Daven-
 port.

'T was on a May-day of the far old
 year
 Seventeen hundred eighty, that there
 fell
 Over the bloom and sweet life of the
 Spring,
 Over the fresh earth and the heaven of
 noon,
 A horror of great darkness, like the
 night
 In day of which the Norland sagas
 tell,—
 The Twilight of the Gods. The low-
 hung sky
 Was black with ominous clouds, save
 where its rim
 Was fringed with a dull glow, like that
 which climbs
 The crater's sides from the red hell
 below.

Birds ceased to sing, and all the barn-
 yard fowls
 Roosted ; the cattle at the pasture bars
 Lowed, and looked homeward ; bats
 on leathern wings
 Flitted abroad ; the sounds of labor
 died ;
 Men prayed, and women wept ; all
 ears grew sharp
 To hear the doom-blast of the trumpet
 shatter
 The black sky, that the dreadful face
 of Christ
 Might look from the rent clouds, not
 as he looked
 A loving guest at Bethany, but stern
 As Justice and inexorable Law.

Meanwhile in the old State-House,
 dim as ghosts,
 Sat the lawgivers of Connecticut,
 Trembling beneath their legislative
 robes.
 "It is the Lord's Great Day ! Let us
 adjourn,"
 Some said ; and then, as if with one
 accord,
 All eyes were turned to Abraham Dav-
 enport.
 He rose, slow cleaving with his steady
 voice
 The intolerable hush. "This well may
 be
 The Day of Judgment which the world
 awaits ;
 But be it so or not, I only know
 My present duty, and my Lord's com-
 mand
 To occupy till he come. So at the
 post
 Where he hath set me in his provi-
 dence,
 I choose, for one, to meet him face to
 face, —
 No faithless servant frightened from
 my task,
 But ready when the Lord of the har-
 vest calls ;
 And therefore, with all reverence, I
 would say,
 Let God do his work, we will see to
 ours.
 Bring in the candles." And they
 brought them in.

Then by the flaring lights the Speaker
read,
Albeit with husky voice and shaking
hands,
An act to amend an act to regulate
The shad and alewife fisheries. Where-
upon
Wisely and well spake Abraham Da-
venport,
Straight to the question, with no fig-
ures of speech
Save the ten Arab signs, yet not with-
out
The shrewd dry humor natural to the
man :
His awe-struck colleagues listening all
the while,
Between the pauses of his argument,
To hear the thunder of the wrath of God
Break from the hollow trumpet of the
cloud.

And there he stands in memory to
this day,
Erect, self-poised, a rugged face, half
seen
Against the background of unnatural
dark,
A witness to the ages as they pass,
That simple duty hath no place for
fear.

He ceased: just then the ocean
seemed
To lift a half-faced moon in sight;
And, shoreward, o'er the waters
gleamed,
From crest to crest, a line of light,
Such as of old, with solemn awe,
The fishers by Gennesaret saw,
When dry-shod o'er it walked the Son
of God,
Tracking the waves with light where'er
his sandals trod.

Silently for a space each eye
Upon that sudden glory turned:
Cool from the land the breeze blew
by,

The tent-ropes flapped, the long
beach churned
Its waves to foam; on either hand
Stretched, far as sight, the hills of
sand;

With bays of marsh, and capes of bush
and tree,
The wood's black shore-line loomed
beyond the meadowy sea.

The lady rose to leave. "One song,
Or hymn," they urged, "before
we part."

And she, with lips to which belong
Sweet intuitions of all art,
Gave to the winds of night a strain
Which they who heard would hear
again;

And to her voice the solemn ocean lent,
Touching its harp of sand, a deep ac-
companiment.

The harp at Nature's advent strung
Has never ceased to play;
The song the stars of morning sung
Has never died away.

And prayer is made, and praise is given,
By all things near and far:
The ocean looketh up to heaven,
And mirrors every star.

Its waves are kneeling on the strand,
As kneels the human knee,
Their white locks bowing to the sand,
The priesthood of the sea!

They pour their glittering treasures
forth,
Their gifts of pearl they bring,
And all the listening hills of earth
Take up the song they sing.

The green earth sends her incense up
From many a mountain shrine;
From folded leaf and dewy cup
She pours her sacred wine.

The mists above the morning rills
Rise white as wings of prayer;
The altar-curtains of the hills
Are sunset's purple air.

The winds with hymns of praise are
loud,
Or low with sobs of pain,—
The thunder-organ of the cloud,
The dropping tears of rain.

With drooping head and branches crossed
The twilight forest grieves,
Or speaks with tongues of Pentecost
From all its sunlit leaves.

The blue sky is the temple's arch,
Its transept earth and air,
The music of its starry march
The chorus of a prayer.

So Nature keeps the reverent frame
With which her years began,
And all her signs and voices shame
The prayerless heart of man.

The singer ceased. The moon's white rays
Fell on the rapt, still face of her.
"Allah il Allah ! He hath praise
From all things," said the Traveller.

"Oft from the desert's silent nights,
And mountain hymns of sunset lights,
My heart has felt rebuke, as in his tent
The Moslem's prayer has shamed my Christian knee unbent."

He paused, and lo ! far, faint, and slow
The bells in Newbury's steeples tolled
The twelve dead hours; the lamp burned low;
The singer sought her canvas fold.
One sadly said, "At break of day
We strike our tent and go our way."
But one made answer cheerily, "Never fear,
We'll pitch this tent of ours in type another year."

NATIONAL LYRICS.

THE MANTLE OF ST. JOHN DE MATHA.

A LEGEND OF "THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE," A. D. 1154 - 1864.

A STRONG and mighty Angel,
Calm, terrible, and bright,
The cross in blended red and blue
Upon his mantle white !

Two captives by him kneeling,
Each on his broken chain,
Sang praise to God who raiseth
The dead to life again !

Dropping his cross-wrought mantle,
"Wear this," the Angel said:
"Take thou, O Freedom's priest, its sign,
The white, the blue, and red."

Then rose up John de Matha
In the strength the Lord Christ gave,
And begged through all the land of France
The ransom of the slave.

The gates of tower and castle
Before him open flew,
The drawbridge at his coming fell,
The door-bolt backward drew.

For all men owned his errand,
And paid his righteous tax ;
And the hearts of lord and peasant
Were in his hands as wax.

At last, outbound from Tunis,
His bark her anchor weighed,
Freighted with seven-score Christian souls
Whose ransom he had paid.

But, torn by Paynim hatred,
Her sails in tatters hung ;
And on the wild waves, rudderless,
A shattered hulk she swung.

"God save us !" cried the captain.
"For naught can man avail ;
O, woe betide the ship that lacks
Her rudder and her sail !

" Behind us are the Moormen ;
 At sea we sink or strand :
 There's death upon the water,
 There's death upon the land ! "

Then up spake John de Matha :
 " God's errands never fail !
 Take thou the mantle which I wear,
 And make of it a sail."

They raised the cross-wrought mantle,
 The blue, the white, the red ;
 And straight before the wind off-shore
 The ship of Freedom sped.

" God help us ! " cried the seamen,
 " For vain is mortal skill :
 The good ship on a stormy sea
 Is drifting at its will."

Then up spake John de Matha :
 " My mariners, never fear !
 The Lord whose breath has filled her
 sail
 May well our vessel steer ! "

So on through storm and darkness
 They drove for weary hours ;
 And lo ! the third gray morning shone
 On Ostia's friendly towers.

And on the walls the watchers
 The ship of mercy knew, —
 They knew far off its holy cross,
 The red, the white, and blue.

And the bells in all the steeples
 Rang out in glad accord,
 To welcome home to Christian soil
 The ransomed of the Lord.

So runs the ancient legend
 By bard and painter told ;
 And lo ! the cycle rounds again,
 The new is as the old !

With rudder foully broken,
 And sails by traitors torn,
 Our country on a midnight sea
 Is waiting for the morn.

Before her, nameless terror ;
 Behind, the pirate foe ;

The clouds are black above her,
 The sea is white below.

The hope of all who suffer,
 The dread of all who wrong,
 She drifts in darkness and in storm,
 How long, O Lord ! how long ?

But courage, O my mariners !
 Ye shall not suffer wreck,
 While up to God the freedman's prayers
 Are rising from your deck.

Is not your sail the banner
 Which God hath blest anew,
 The mantle that De Matha wore,
 The red, the white, the blue ?

Its hues are all of heaven, —
 The red of sunset's dye,
 The whiteness of the moon-lit cloud,
 The blue of morning's sky.

Wait cheerily, then, O mariners,
 For daylight and for land ;
 The breath of God is in your sail,
 Your rudder is His hand.

Sail on, sail on, deep-freighted
 With blessings and with hopes ;
 The saints of old with shadowy hands
 Are pulling at your ropes.

Behind ye holy martyrs
 Uplift the palm and crown ;
 Before ye unborn ages send
 Their benedictions down.

Take heart from John de Matha ! —
 God's errands never fail !
 Sweep on through storm and darkness,
 The thunder and the hail !

Sail on ! The morning cometh,
 The port ye yet shall win ;
 And all the bells of God shall ring
 The good ship bravely in !

WHAT THE BIRDS SAID.

THE birds against the April wind
 Flew northward, singing as they flew;

They sang, "The land we leave behind
Has swords for corn-blades, blood for
dew."

"O wild-birds, flying from the South,
What saw and heard ye, gazing
down?"

"We saw the mortar's upturned mouth,
The sickened camp, the blazing
town!"

"Beneath the bivouac's starry lamps,
We saw your march-worn children
die;
In shrouds of moss, in cypress swamps,
We saw your dead uncoffined lie."

"We heard the starving prisoner's
sighs,
And saw, from line and trench, your
sons

Follow our flight with home-sick eyes
Beyond the battery's smoking guns."

"And heard and saw ye only wrong
And pain," I cried, "O wing-worn
flocks?"

"We heard," they sang, "the freed-
man's song,
The crash of Slavery's broken locks!"

"We saw from new, uprising States
The treason-nursing mischief spurned,
As, crowding Freedom's ample gates,
The long-estranged and lost returned.

"O'er dusky faces, seamed and old,
And hands horn-hard with unpaid
toil,
With hope in every rustling fold,
We saw your star-dropt flag uncoil.

"And struggling up through sounds
accursed,
A grateful murmur climb the air;
A whisper scarcely heard at first,
It filled the listening heavens with
prayer.

"And sweet and far, as from a star,
Replied a voice which shall not cease,
Till, drowning all the noise of war,
It sings the blessed song of peace!"

So to me, in a doubtful day
Of chill and slowly greening spring,
Low stooping from the cloudy gray,
The wild-birds sang or seemed to sing.

They vanished in the misty air,
The song went with them in their
flight;
But lo! they left the sunset fair,
And in the evening there was light.

LAUS DEO!

ON HEARING THE BELLS RING ON THE PASSAGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ABOLISHING SLAVERY.

It is done!
Clang of bell and roar of gun
Send the tidings up and down.
How the bellries rock and reel!
How the great guns, peal on peal,
Fling the joy from town to town!

Ring, O bells!
Every stroke exulting tells
Of the burial hour of crime.
Loud and long, that all may hear,
Ring for every listening ear
Of Eternity and Time!

Let us kneel:
God's own voice is in that peal,
And this spot is holy ground.
Lord, forgive us! What are we,
That our eyes this glory see,
That our ears have heard the sound!

For the Lord
On the whirlwind is abroad;
In the earthquake he has spoken;
He has smitten with his thunder
The iron walls asunder,
And the gates of brass are broken!

Loud and long
Lift the old exulting song;
Sing with Miriam by the sea
He has cast the mighty down;
Horse and rider sink and drown;
"He hath triumphed gloriously!"

Did we dare,
In our agony of prayer,
Ask for more than He has done?
When was ever his right hand
Over any time or land
Stretched as now beneath the sun?

How they pale,
Ancient myth and song and tale,
In this wonder of our days,
When the cruel rod of war
Blossoms white with righteous law,
And the wrath of man is praise!

Blotted out!
All within and all about
Shall a fresher life begin;
Freer breathe the universe
As it rolls its heavy curse
On the dead and buried sin!

It is done!
In the circuit of the sun
Shall the sound thereof go forth.
It shall bid the sad rejoice,
It shall give the dumb a voice,
It shall belt with joy the earth!

Ring and swing,
Bells of joy! On morning's wing
Send the song of praise abroad!
With a sound of broken chains
Tell the nations that He reigns,
Who alone is Lord and God!

THE PEACE AUTUMN.

WRITTEN FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL FESTIVAL, 1865.

THANK God for rest, where none molest,
And none can make afraid,—
For Peace that sits as Plenty's guest
Beneath the homestead shade!

Bring pike and gun, the sword's red
scourge,
The negro's broken chains,
And beat them at the blacksmith's forge
To ploughshares for our plains.

Alike henceforth our hills of snow,
And vales where cotton flowers;
All streams that flow, all winds that
blow
Are Freedom's motive-powers.

Henceforth to Labor's chivalry
Be knightly honors paid;
For nobler than the sword's shall be
The sickle's accolade.

Build up an altar to the Lord,
O grateful hearts of ours!
And shape it of the greenest sward
That ever drank the showers.

Lay all the bloom of gardens there,
And there the orchard fruits;
Bring golden grain from sun and air,
From earth her goodly roots.

There let our banners droop and flow,
The stars uprise and fall;
Our roll of martyrs, sad and slow,
Let sighing breezes call.

Their names let hands of horn and
tan
And rough-shod feet applaud,
Who died to make the slave a man,
And link with toil reward.

There let the common heart keep time
To such an anthem sung
As never swelled on poet's rhyme,
Or thrilled on singer's tongue.

Song of our burden and relief,
Of peace and long annoy;
The passion of our mighty grief
And our exceeding joy!

A song of praise to Him who filled
The harvests sown in tears,
And gave each field a double yield
To feed our battle-years!

A song of faith that trusts the end
To match the good begun,
Nor doubts the power of Love to blend
The hearts of men as one!

TO THE THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

O PEOPLE-CHOSEN ! are ye not
Likewise the chosen of the Lord,
To do his will and speak his word ?

From the loud thunder-storm of war
Not man alone hath called ye forth,
But he, the God of all the earth !

The torch of vengeance in your hands
He quenches ; unto Him belongs
The solemn recompense of wrongs.

Enough of blood the land has seen,
And not by cell or gallows-stair
Shall ye the way of God prepare.

Say to the pardon-seekers, — Keep
Your manhood, bend no suppliant
knees,
Nor palter with unworthy pleas.

Above your voices sounds the wail
Of starving men ; we shut in vain
Our eyes to Pillow's ghastly stain.

What words can drown that bitter cry ?
What tears wash out that stain of
death ?
What oaths confirm your broken faith ?

From you alone the guaranty
Of union, freedom, peace, we claim ;
We urge no conqueror's terms of
shame.

Alas ! no victor's pride is ours ;
We bend above our triumphs won
Like David o'er his rebel son.

Be men, not beggars. Cancel all
By one brave, generous action : trust
Your better instincts, and be just !

Make all men peers before the law,
Take hands from off the negro's
throat,
Give black and white an equal vote.

Keep all your forfeit lives and lands,
But give the common law's redress
To labor's utter nakedness.

Revive the old heroic will ;
Be in the right as brave and strong,
As ye have proved yourselves in
wrong.

Defeat shall then be victory,
Your loss the wealth of full amends,
And hate be love, and foes be friends.

Then buried be the dreadful past,
Its common slain be mourned, and
let
All memories soften to regret.

Then shall the Union's mother-heart
Her lost and wandering ones recall,
Forgiving and restoring all, —

And Freedom break her marble trance
Above the Capitolian dome,
Stretch hands, and bid ye welcome
home !

O C C A S I O N A L P O E M S .

THE ETERNAL GOODNESS.

O FRIENDS ! with whom my feet have
trod

The quiet aisles of prayer,
Glad witness to your zeal for God
And love of man I bear.

I trace your lines of argument ;
Your logic linked and strong
I weigh as one who dreads dissent,
And fears a doubt as wrong.

But still my human hands are weak
To hold your iron creeds :

Against the words ye bid me speak
My heart within me pleads.

Who fathoms the Eternal Thought?
Who talks of scheme and plan?
The Lord is God! He needeth not
The poor device of man.

I walk with bare, hushed feet the ground
Ye tread with boldness shod;
I dare not fix with mete and bound
The love and power of God.

Ye praise His justice; even such
His pitying love I deem:
Ye seek a king; I fain would touch
The robe that hath no seam.

Ye see the curse which overbroods
A world of pain and loss;
I hear our Lord's beatitudes
And prayer upon the cross.

More than your schoolmen teach, within
Myself, alas! I know;
Too dark ye cannot paint the sin,
Too small the merit show.

I bow my forehead to the dust,
I veil mine eyes for shame,
And urge, in trembling self-distrust,
A prayer without a claim.

I see the wrong that round me lies,
I feel the guilt within;
I hear, with groan and travail-cries,
The world confess its sin.

Yet, in the maddening maze of things,
And tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed stake my spirit clings;
I know that God is good!

Not mine to look where cherubim
And seraphs may not see,
But nothing can be good in Him
Which evil is in me.

The wrong that pains my soul below
I dare not throne above:
I know not of His hate, — I know
His goodness and His love.

I dimly guess from blessings known
Of greater out of sight,
And, with the chastened Psalmist, own
His judgments too are right.

I long for household voices gone,
For vanished smiles I long,
But God hath led my dear ones on,
And He can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak
To bear an untried pain,
The bruised reed He will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of my own I have,
Nor works my faith to prove;
I can but give the gifts He gave,
And plead His love for love.

And so beside the Silent Sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm from Him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

O brothers! if my faith is vain,
If hopes like these betray,
Pray for me that my feet may gain
The sure and safer way.

And Thou, O Lord! by whom are seen
Thy creatures as they be,
Forgive me if too close I lean
My human heart on Thee!

OUR MASTER.

IMMORTAL Love, forever full,
Forever flowing free,
Forever shared, forever whole,
A never-ebbing sea!

Our outward lips confess the name
 All other names above ;
 Love only knoweth whence it came,
 And comprehendeth love.

Blow, winds of God, awake and blow
 The mists of earth away !
 Shine out, O Light Divine, and show
 How wide and far we stray !

Hush every lip, close every book,
 The strife of tongues forbear ;
 Why forward reach, or backward look,
 For love that clasps like air ?

We may not climb the heavenly steeps
 To bring the Lord Christ down :
 In vain we search the lowest deeps,
 For him no depths can drown.

Nor holy bread, nor blood of grape,
 The lineaments restore
 Of him we know in outward shape
 And in the flesh no more.

He cometh not a king to reign ;
 The world's long hope is dim ;
 The weary centuries watch in vain
 The clouds of heaven for him.

Death comes, life goes ; the asking eye
 And ear are answerless ;
 The grave is dumb, the hollow sky
 Is sad with silence.

The letter fails, and systems fall,
 And every symbol wanes ;
 The Spirit over-brooding all
 Eternal Love remains.

And not for signs in heaven above
 Or earth below they look,
 Who know with John his smile of love,
 With Peter his rebuke.

In joy of inward peace, or sense
 Of sorrow over sin,
 He is his own best evidence,
 His witness is within.

No fable old, nor mythic lore,
 Nor dream of bards and seers,
 No dead fact stranded on the shore
 Of the oblivious years ; —

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
 A present help is he ;
 And faith has still its Olivet,
 And love its Galilee.

The healing of his seamless dress
 Is by our beds of pain ;
 We touch him in life's throng and press,
 And we are whole again.

Through him the first fond prayers are
 said
 Our lips of childhood frame,
 The last low whispers of our dead
 Are burdened with his name.

O Lord and Master of us all !
 Whate'er our name or sign,
 We own thy sway, we hear thy call,
 We test our lives by thine.

Thou judgest us ; thy purity
 Doth all our lusts condemn ;
 The love that draws us nearer thee
 Is hot with wrath to them.

Our thoughts lie open to thy sight ;
 And, naked to thy glance,
 Our secret sins are in the light
 Of thy pure countenance.

Thy healing pains, a keen distress
 Thy tender light shines in ;
 Thy sweetness is the bitterness,
 Thy grace the pang of sin.

Yet, weak and blinded though we be
 Thou dost our service own ;
 We bring our varying gifts to thee,
 And thou rejectest none.

To thee our full humanity,
 Its joys and pains, belong ;
 The wrong of man to man on thee
 Inflicts a deeper wrong.

Who hates, hates thee, who loves be
 comes
 Therein to thee allied ;
 All sweet accords of hearts and homes
 In thee are multiplied.

Deep strike thy roots, O heavenly Vine,
Within our earthly sod,
Most human and yet most divine,
The flower of man and God !

O Love ! O Life ! Our faith and sight
Thy presence maketh one :
As through transfigured clouds of white
We trace the noon-day sun.

So, to our mortal eyes subdued,
Flesh-veiled, but not concealed,
We know in thee the fatherhood
And heart of God revealed.

We faintly hear, we dimly see,
In differing phrase we pray ;
But, dim or clear, we own in thee
The Light, the Truth, the Way !

The homage that we render thee
Is still our Father's own ;
Nor jealous claim or rivalry
Divides the Cross and Throne.

To do thy will is more than praise,
As words are less than deeds,
And simple trust can find thy ways
We miss with chart of creeds.

No pride of self thy service hath,
No place for me and mine ;
Our human strength is weakness, death
Our life, apart from thine.

Apart from thee all gain is loss,
All labor vainly done ;
The solemn shadow of thy Cross
Is better than the sun.

Alone, O Love ineffable !
Thy saving name is given ;
To turn aside from thee is hell,
To walk with thee is heaven !

How vain, secure in all thou art,
Our noisy championship ! —
The sighing of the contrite heart
Is more than flattering lip.

Not thine the bigot's partial plea,
Nor thine the zealot's ban ;
Thou well canst spare a love of thee
Which ends in hate of man.

Our Friend, our Brother, and our
Lord,
What may thy service be ? —
Nor name, nor form, nor ritual word,
But simply following thee.

We bring no ghastly holocaust,
We pile no graven stone ;
He serves thee best who loveth most
His brothers and thy own.

Thy litanies, sweet offices
Of love and gratitude ;
Thy sacramental liturgies,
The joy of doing good.

In vain shall waves of incense drift
The vaulted nave around,
In vain the minster turret lift
Its brazen weights of sound.

The heart must ring thy Christmas
bells,
Thy inward altars raise ;
Its faith and hope thy canticles,
And its obedience praise !

THE VANISHERS.

SWEETEST of all childlike dreams
In the simple Indian lore
Still to me the legend seems
Of the shapes who flit before.

Flitting, passing, seen and gone,
Never reached nor found at rest,
Baffling search, but beckoning on
To the Sunset of the Blest.

From the clefts of mountain rocks,
Through the dark of lowland firs,
Flash the eyes and flow the locks
Of the mystic Vanishers !

And the fisher in his skiff,
And the hunter on the moss,
Hear their call from cape and cliff,
See their hands the birch-leaves toss.

Wistful, longing, through the green
Twilight of the clustered pines,

In their faces rarely seen
Beauty more than mortal shines.

Fringed with gold their mantles flow
On the slopes of westering knolls ;
In the wind they whisper low
Of the Sunset Land of Souls.

Doubt who may, O friend of mine !
Thou and I have seen them too ;
On before with beck and sign
Still they glide, and we pursue.

More than clouds of purple trail
In the gold of setting day ;
More than gleams of wing or sail
Beckon from the sea-mist gray.

Glimpses of immortal youth,
Gleams and glories seen and flown,
Far-heard voices sweet with truth,
Airs from viewless Eden blown, —

Beauty that eludes our grasp,
Sweetness that transcends our taste,
Loving hands we may not clasp,
Shining feet that mock our haste, —

Gentle eyes we closed below,
Tender voices heard once more,
Smile and call us, as they go
On and onward, still before.

Guided thus, O friend of mine !
Let us walk our little way,
Knowing by each beckoning sign
That we are not quite astray.

Chase we still, with baffled feet,
Smiling eye and waving hand,
Sought and seeker soon shall meet,
Lost and found, in Sunset Land !

REVISITED.

READ AT THE "LAURELS," ON THE
MERRIMACK, 6TH MONTH, 1865.

THE roll of drums and the bugle's wailing
Vex the air of our vales no more ;

The spear is beaten to hooks of pruning,
The share is the sword the soldier
wore !

Sing soft, sing low, our lowland river,
Under thy banks of laurel bloom ;
Softly and sweet, as the hour beseemeth,
Sing us the songs of peace and home.

Let all the tenderer voices of nature
Temper the triumph and chaste
mirth,
Full of the infinite love and pity
For fallen martyr and darkened
hearth.

But to Him who gives us beauty for
ashes,
And the oil of joy for mourning long,
Let thy hills give thanks, and all thy
waters
Break into jubilant waves of song !

Bring us the airs of hills and forests,
The sweet aroma of birch and pine,
Give us a waft of the north-wind, laden
With sweetbrier odors and breath of
kine !

Bring us the purple of mountain sunsets,
Shadows of clouds that rake the hills,
The green repose of thy Plymouth
meadows,
The gleam and ripple of Campton
rills.

Lead us away in shadow and sunshine,
Slaves of fancy, through all thy miles,
The winding ways of Pemigewasset,
And Winnipesaukee's hundred isles.

Shatter in sunshine over thy ledges,
Laugh in thy plunges from fall to fall ;
Play with thy fringes of elms, and darken
Under the shade of the mountain wall.

The cradle-song of thy hillside fountains
Here in thy glory and strength repeat ;
Give us a taste of thy upland music,
Show us the dance of thy silver feet.

Into thy dutiful life of uses
Pour the music and weave the flowers;

With the song of birds and bloom of
meadows
Lighten and gladden thy heart and
ours.

Sing on ! bring down, O lowland river,
The joy of the hills to the waiting
sea ;
The wealth of the vales, the pomp of
mountains,
The breath of the woodlands, bear
with thee.

Here, in the calm of thy seaward valley,
Mirth and labor shall hold their truce ;
Dance of water and mill of grinding,
Both are beauty and both are use.

Type of the Northland's strength and
glory,
Pride and hope of our home and
race, —
Freedom lending to rugged labor
Tints of beauty and lines of grace.

Once again, O beautiful river,
Hear our greetings and take our
thanks ;
Hither we come, as Eastern pilgrims
Throng to the Jordan's sacred banks.

For though by the Master's feet un-
trodden,
Though never his word has stilled
thy waves,
Well for us may thy shores be holy,
With Christian altars and saintly
graves.

And well may we own thy hint and
taken
Of fairer valleys and streams than
these,
Where the rivers of God are full of water,
And full of sap are his healing trees !

THE COMMON QUESTION.

BEHIND us at our evening meal
The gray bird ate his fill,
Swung downward by a single claw,
And wiped his hooked bill.

He shook his wings and crimson tail,
And set his head aslant,
And, in his sharp, impatient way,
Asked, "What does Charlie want ?".

"Fie, silly bird !" I answered, "tuck
Your head beneath your wing,
And go to sleep" ; — but o'er and o'er
He asked the selfsame thing.

Then, smiling, to myself I said :—
How like are men and birds !
We all are saying what he says,
In action or in words.

The boy with whip and top and drum,
The girl with hoop and doll,
And men with lands and houses, ask
The question of Poor Poll.

However full, with something more
We fain the bag would cram ;
We sigh above our crowded nets
For fish that never swam.

No bounty of indulgent Heaven
The vague desire can stay ;
Self-love is still a Tartar mill
For grinding prayers alway.

The dear God hears and pities all ;
He knoweth all our wants ;
And what we blindly ask of him
His love withholds or grants.

And so I sometimes think our prayers
Might well be merged in one ;
And nest and perch and hearth and
church
Repeat, "Thy will be done."

BRYANT ON HIS BIRTHDAY.

We praise not now the poet's art,
The rounded beauty of his song ;
Who weighs him from his life apart
Must do his nobler nature wrong.

Not for the eye, familiar grown
With charms to common sight de-
nied, —

The marvellous gift he shares alone
With him who walked on Rydal-side ;

Not for rapt hymn nor woodland lay,
Too grave for smiles, too sweet for
tears ;
We speak his praise who wears to-day
The glory of his seventy years.

When Peace brings Freedom in her
train,
Let happy lips his songs rehearse ;
His life is now his noblest strain,
His manhood better than his verse !

Thank God ! his hand on Nature's keys
Its cunning keeps at life's full span ;
But, dimmed and dwarfed, in times like
these,
The poet seems beside the man !

So be it ! let the garlands die,
The singer's wreath, the painter's
meed,
Let our names perish, if thereby
Our country may be saved and freed !

HYMN

FOR THE OPENING OF THOMAS STARR
KING'S HOUSE OF WORSHIP, 1864.

AMIDST these glorious works of thine,
The solemn minarets of the pine,
And awful Shasta's icy shrine, —

Where swell thy hymns from wave and
gale,
And organ-thunders never fail,
Behind the cataract's silver veil, —

Our puny walls to Thee we raise,
Our poor reed-music sounds thy praise :
Forgive, O Lord, our childish ways !

For, kneeling on these altar-stairs,
We urge Thee not with selfish prayers,
Nor murmur at our daily cares.

Before Thee, in an evil day,
Our country's bleeding heart we lay,
And dare not ask thy hand to stay ;

But, through the war-cloud, pray to thee
For union, but a union free,
With peace that comes of purity !

That Thou wilt bare thy arm to save,
And, smiting through this Red Sea
wave,
Make broad a pathway for the slave !

For us, confessing all our need,
We trust nor rite nor word nor deed,
Nor yet the broken staff of creed.

Assured alone that Thou art good
To each, as to the multitude,
Eternal Love and Fatherhood, —

Weak, sinful, blind, to Thee we kneel,
Stretch dumbly forth our hands, and
feel
Our weakness is our strong appeal.

So, by these Western gates of Even
We wait to see with thy forgiven
The opening Golden Gate of Heaven !

Suffice it now. In time to be
Shall holier altars rise to thee, —
Thy Church our broad humanity !

White flowers of love its walls shall
climb,
Soft bells of peace shall ring its chime,
Its day shall all be holy time.

A sweeter song shall then be heard, —
The music of the world's accord
Confessing Christ, the Inward Word !

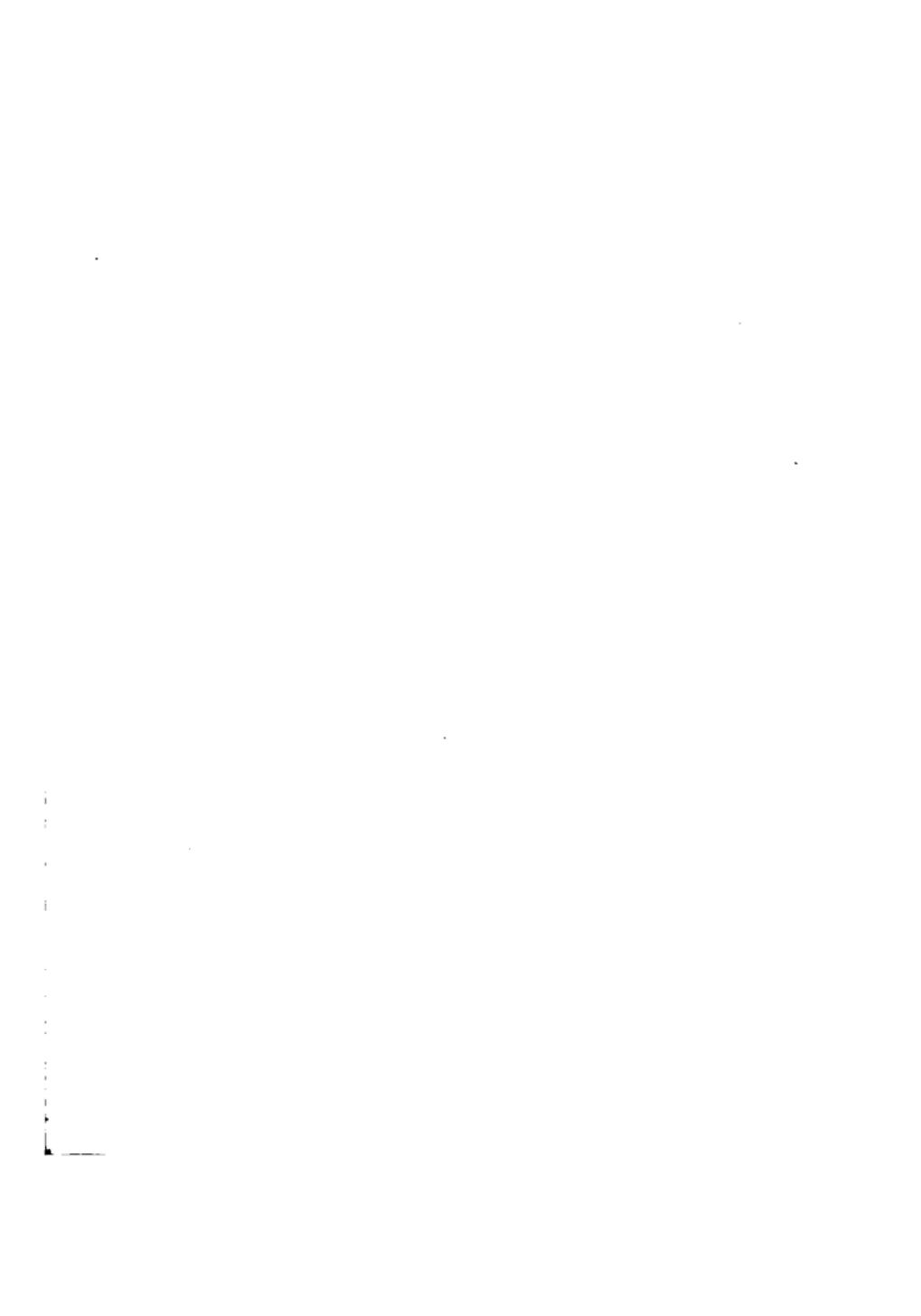
That song shall swell from shore to
shore,
One hope, one faith, one love, restore
The seamless robe that Jesus wore.

THOMAS STARR KING.

THE great work laid upon his twoscore
years
Is done, and well done. If we drop our
tears,

Who loved him as few men were ever
loved,
We mourn no blighted hope nor bro-
ken plan
With him whose life stands rounded
and approved
In the full growth and stature of a man.
Mingle, Obells, along the Western slope,
With your deep toll a sound of faith
and hope !
Wave cheerily still, O banner, half-way
down,
From thousand-masted bay and stee-
pled town !

Let the strong organ with its loftiest
swell
Lift the proud sorrow of the land, and
tell
That the brave sower saw his ripened
grain.
O East and West ! O morn and sunset
twain
No more forever !—has he lived in
vain
Who, priest of Freedom, made ye one,
and told
Your bridal service from his lips of
gold ?



A M O N G T H E H I L L S ,

AND

O T H E R P O E M S .

1868.

TO

ANNIE FIELDS

This Little Volume,

DESCRIPTIVE OF SCENES WITH WHICH SHE IS FAMILIAR

IS

GRATEFULLY OFFERED.

AMONG THE HILLS.

PRELUDE.

ALONG the roadside, like the flowers
of gold
That tawny Incas for their gardens
wrought,
Heavy with sunshine droops the golden-rod,
And the red pennons of the cardinal-
flowers
Hang motionless upon their upright
staves.
The sky is hot and hazy, and the
wind,
Wing-weary with its long flight from
the south,
Unfelt ; yet, closely scanned, yon maple leaf
With faintest motion, as one stirs in
dreams,
Confesses it. The locust by the wall
Stabs the noon-silence with his sharp
alarm.
A single hay-cart down the dusty road
Creaks slowly, with its driver fast
asleep
On the load's top. Against the neigh-
boring hill,
Huddled along the stone wall's shady
side,
The sheep show white, as if a snow-
drift still
Defied the dog-star. Through the
open door
A drowsy smell of flowers — gray helio-
tropes,
And white sweet-clover, and shy mignon-
nette —
Comes faintly in, and silent chorus
lends
To the pervading symphony of peace.
No time is this for hands long over-
worn

To task their strength : and (unto Him
be praise
Who giveth quietness !) the stress and
strain
Of years that did the work of cen-
turies
Have ceased, and we can draw our
breath once more
Freely and full. So, as yon harvesters
Make glad their nooning underneath
the elms
With tale and riddle and old snatch
of song,
I lay aside grave themes, and idly turn
The leaves of Memory's sketch-book,
dreaming o'er
Old summer pictures of the quiet hills,
And human life, as quiet, at their feet.
And yet not idly all. A farmer's son,
Proud of field-lore and harvest craft,
and feeling
All their fine possibilities, how rich
And restful even poverty and toil
Become when beauty, harmony, and
love
Sit at their humble hearth as angels
sat
At evening in the patriarch's tent,
when man
Makes labor noble, and his farmer's
frock
The symbol of a Christian chivalry
Tender and just and generous to her
Who clothes with grace all duty ; still,
I know
Too well the picture has another
side, —
How wearily the grind of toil goes
on
Where love is wanting, how the eye
and ear
And heart are starved amidst the plen-
itude

Of nature, and how hard and colorless
Is life without an atmosphere. I look
Across the lapse of half a century,
And call to mind old homesteads,
where no flower
Told that the spring had come, but
evil weeds,
Nightshade and rough-leaved burdock
in the place
Of the sweet doorway greeting of the
rose
And honeysuckle, where the house
walls seemed
Blistering in sun, without a tree or
vine
To cast the tremulous shadow of its
leaves
Across the curtainless windows from
whose panes
Fluttered the signal rags of shiftless-
ness ;
Within, the cluttered kitchen-floor,
unwashed
(Broom-clean I think they called it) :
the best room
Stifling with cellar damp, shut from
the air
In hot midsummer, bookless, picture-
less
Save the inevitable sampler hung
Over the fireplace, or a mourning-
piece,
A green-haired woman, peony-cheeked,
beneath
Impossible willows ; the wide-throated
hearth
Bristling with faded pine-boughs half
concealing
The piled-up rubbish at the chimney's
back ;
And, in sad keeping with all things
about them,
Shrill, querulous women, sour and
sullen men,
Untidy, loveless, old before their time,
With scarce a human interest save
their own
Monotonous round of small economies,
Or the poor scandal of the neighbor-
hood ;
Blind to the beauty everywhere re-
vealed,
Treading the May-flowers with regard-
less feet ;

For them the song-sparrow and the
bobolink
Sang not, nor winds made music in
the leaves ;
For them in vain October's holocaust
Burned, gold and crimson, over all the
hills,
The sacramental mystery of the woods.
Church-goers, fearful of the unseen
Powers,
But grumbling over pulpit-tax and
pew-rent,
Saving, as shrewd economists, their
souls
And winter pork with the least pos-
ible outlay
Of salt and sanctity ; in daily life
Showing as little actual comprehensiva
Of Christian charity and love and duty,
As if the Sermon on the Mount had
been
Outdated like a last year's almanac :
Rich in broad woodlands and in half-
tilled fields,
And yet so pinched and bare and com-
fortless,
The veriest straggler limping on his
rounds,
The sun and air his sole inheritance,
Laughed at a poverty that paid its
taxes,
And hugged his rags in self-compla-
cency !
Not such should be the homesteads of
a land
Where whoso wisely wills and acts may
dwell
As king and lawgiver, in broad-acred
state,
With beauty, art, taste, culture, books,
to make
His hour of leisure richer than a life
Of fourscore to the barons of old time,
Our yeoman should be equal to his
home
Set in the fair, green valleys, purple
walled,
A man to match his mountains, not to
creep
Dwarfed and abased below them. I
would fain
In this light way (of which I needs
must own

With the knife-grinder of whom Can-
ning sings,
"Story, God bless you ! I have none
to tell you !")
Invite the eye to see and heart to feel
The beauty and the joy within their
reach, —
Home, and home loves, and the beati-
tudes
Of nature free to all. Happily in years
That wait to take the places of our
own,
Heard where some breezy balcony
looks down
On happy homes, or where the lake in
the moon
Sleeps dreaming of the mountains, fair
as Ruth,
In the old Hebrew pastoral, at the
feet
Of Boaz, even this simple lay of mine
May seem the burden of a prophecy,
Finding its late fulfilment in a change
Slow as the oak's growth, lifting man-
hood up
Through broader culture, finer man-
ners, love,
And reverence, to the level of the hills.

O Golden Age, whose light is of the
dawn,
And not of sunset, forward, not behind,
Flood the new heavens and earth, and
with thee bring
All the old virtues, whatsoever things
Are pure and honest and of good re-
pute,
But add thereto whatever bard has
sung
Or seer has told of when in trance and
dream
They saw the Happy Isles of prophe-
cy !
Let Justice hold her scale, and Truth
divide
Between the right and wrong ; but
give the heart
The freedom of its fair inheritance ;
Let the poor prisoner, cramped and
starved so long,
At Nature's table feast his ear and
eye
With joy and wonder ; let all har-
monies

Of sound, form, color, motion, wait
upon
The princely guest, whether in soft
attire
Of leisure clad, or the coarse frock of
toil.
And, lending life to the dead form of
faith,
Give human nature reverence for the
sake
Of One who bore it, making it divine
With the ineffable tenderness of God ;
Let common need, the brotherhood of
prayer,
The heirship of an unknown destiny,
The unsolved mystery round about us,
make
A man more precious than the gold of
Ophir.
Sacred, inviolate, unto whom all things
Should minister, as outward types and
signs
Of the eternal beauty which fulfils
The one great purpose of creation,
Love,
The sole necessity of Earth and Heav-
en !

AMONG THE HILLS.

FOR weeks the clouds had raked the
hills

And vexed the vales with raining,
And all the woods were sad with mist,
And all the brooks complaining.

At last, a sudden night-storm tore
The mountain veils asunder,
And swept the valleys clean before
The besom of the thunder.

Through Sandwich notch the west-
wind sang
Good morrow to the cotter :
And once again Chocorua's horn
Of shadow pierced the water.

Above his broad lake Ossipee,
Once more the sunshine wearing,
Stooped, tracing on that silver shield
His grim armorial bearing.

Clear drawn against the hard blue sky
The peaks had winter's keenness ;

AMONG THE HILLS.

And, close on autumn's frost, the vales
Had more than June's fresh green-
ness.

Again the sodden forest floors
With golden lights were checkered,
Once more rejoicing leaves in wind
And sunshine danced and flickered.

It was as if the summer's late
Atoning for its sadness
Had borrowed every season's charm
To end its days in gladness.

I call to mind those banded vales
Of shadow and of shining,
Through which, my hostess at my side,
I drove in day's declining.

We held our sideling way above
The river's whitening shallows,
By homesteads old, with wide-flung
barns
Swept through and through by swal-
lows, —

By maple orchards, belts of pine
And larches climbing darkly
The mountain slopes, and, over all,
The great peaks rising starkly.

You should have seen that long hill-
range
With gaps of brightness riven, —
How through each pass and hollow
streamed
The purpling lights of heaven, —

Rivers of gold-mist flowing down
From far celestial fountains, —
The great sun flaming through the rifts
Beyond the wall of mountains !

We paused at last where home-bound
cows
Brought down the pasture's treasure,
And in the barn the rhythmic flails
Beat out a harvest measure.

We heard the night-hawk's sullen
plunge,
The crow his tree-mates calling :
The shadows lengthening down the
slopes
About our feet were falling.

And through them smote the level sun.
In broken lines of splendor,
Touched the gray rocks and made the
green
Of the shorn grass more tender.

The maples bending o'er the gate,
Their arch of leaves just tinted
With yellow warmth, the golden glow
Of coming autumn hinted.

Keen white between the farm-house
showed,
And smiled on porch and trellis,
The fair democracy of flowers
That equals cot and palace.

And weaving garlands for her dog,
'Twixt chidings and caresses,
A human flower of childhood shook
The sunshine from her tresses.

On either hand we saw the signs
Of fancy and of shrewdness,
Where taste had wound its arms of
vines
Round thrift's uncomely rudeness.

The sun-brown farmer in his frock
Shook hands, and called to Mary :
Bare-armed, as Juno might, she came,
White-aproned from her dairy.

Her air, her smile, her motions, told
Of womanly completeness :
A music as of household songs
Was in her voice of sweetness.

Not beautiful in curve and line,
But something more and better,
The secret charm eluding art,
Its spirit, not its letter ; —

An inborn grace that nothing lacked
Of culture or appliance, —
The warmth of genial courtesy,
The calm of self-reliance.

Before her queenly womanhood
How dared our hostess utter
The paltry errand of her need
To buy her fresh-churned butter ?
She led the way with housewife pride
Her goodly store disclosing.

Pull tenderly the golden balls
With practised hands disposing.

Then, while along the western hills
We watched the changeful glory
Of sunset, on our homeward way,
I heard her simple story.

The early crickets sang; the stream
Plashed through my friend's narration:
Her rustic patois of the hills
Lost in my free translation.

"More wise," she said, "than those
who swarm
Our hills in middle summer,
She came, when June's first roses blow,
To greet the early comer.

"From school and ball and rout she
came,
The city's fair, pale daughter,
To drink the wine of mountain air
Beside the Bearcamp Water.

"Her step grew firmer on the hills
That watch our homesteads over;
On cheek and lip, from summer fields,
She caught the bloom of clover.

"For health comes sparkling in the
streams
From cool Chocorua stealing;
There's iron in our Northern winds;
Our pines are trees of healing.

"She sat beneath the broad-armed elms
That skirt the mowing-meadow,
And watched the gentle west-wind
weave
The grass with shine and shadow.

"Beside her, from the summer heat
To share her grateful screening,
With forehead bared, the farmer stood,
Upon his pitchfork leaning.

"Framed in its damp, dark locks, his
face
Had nothing mean or common,—
Strong, manly, true, the tenderness
And pride beloved of woman.

"She looked up, glowing with the
health

The country air had brought her,
And, laughing, said: 'You lack a wife,
Your mother lacks a daughter.'

"To mend your frock and bake your
bread
You do not need a lady:
Be sure among these brown old homes
Is some one waiting ready,—

"Some fair, sweet girl with skilful hand
And cheerful heart for treasure,
Who never played with ivory keys,
Or danced the polka's measure.'

"He bent his black brows to a frown,
He set his white teeth tightly.
'T is well,' he said, 'for one like you
To choose for me so lightly.'

"You think, because my life is rude
I take no note of sweetness:
I tell you love has naught to do
With meetness or unmeetness.

"Itself its best excuse, it asks
No leave of pride or fashion
When silken zone or homespun frock
It stirs with throbs of passion.

"You think me deaf and blind; you
bring
Your winning graces hither
As free as if from cradle-time
We two had played together.

"You tempt me with your laughing
eyes,
Your cheek of sundown's blushes,
A motion as of waving grain,
A music as of thrushes.

"The plaything of your summer sport,
The spells you weave around me
You cannot at your will undo,
Nor leave me as you found me.

"You go as lightly as you came,
Your life is well without me;
What care you that these hills will close
Like prison-walls about 'ne't

" ' No mood is mine to seek a wife,
Or daughter for my mother :
Who loves you loses in that love
All power to love another !

" ' I dare your pity or your scorn,
With pride your own exceeding ;
I fling my heart into your lap
Without a word of pleading.'

" She looked up in his face of pain
So archly, yet so tender :
' And if I lend you mine,' she said,
' Will you forgive the lender ?'

" ' Nor frock nor tan can hide the man ;
And see you not, my farmer,
How weak and fond a woman waits
Behind this silken armor ?

" ' I love you : on that love alone,
And not my worth, presuming,
Will you not trust for summer fruit
The tree in May-day blooming ? '

" Alone the hangbird overhead,
His hair-swung cradle straining,
Looked down to see love's miracle, —
The giving that is gaining.

" And so the farmer found a wife,
His mother found a daughter :
There looks no happier home than hers
On pleasant Bearcamp Water.

" Flowers spring to blossom where she
walks
The careful ways of duty ;
Our hard, stiff lines of life with her
Are flowing curves of beauty.

" Our homes are cheerier for her sake,
Our door-yards brighter blooming,
And all about the social air
Is sweeter for her coming.

" Unspoken homilies of peace
Her daily life is preaching ;
The still refreshment of the dew
Is her unconscious teaching.

" And never tenderer hand than hers
Unknits the brow of ailing ;
Her garments to the sick man's ear
Have music in their trailing.

" And when, in pleasant harvest moons,
The youthful huskers gather,
Or sleigh-drives on the mountain ways
Defy the winter weather, —

" In sugar-camps, when south and
warm
The winds of March are blowing,
And sweetly from its thawing veins
The maple's blood is flowing, —

" In summer, where some lilled pond
Its virgin zone is bearing,
Or where the ruddy autumn fire
Lights up the apple-paring, —

" The coarseness of a ruder time
Her finer mirth displaces,
A subtler sense of pleasure fills
Each rustic sport she graces.

" Her presence lends its warmth and
health
To all who come before it.
If woman lost us Eden, such
As she alone restore it.

" For larger life and wiser aims
The farmer is her debtor ;
Who holds to his another's heart
Must needs be worse or better.

" Through her his civic service shows
A purer-toned ambition ;
No double consciousness divides
The man and politician.

" In party's doubtful ways he trusts
Her instincts to determine ;
At the loud polls, the thought of her
Recalls Christ's Mountain Sermon.

" He owns her logic of the heart,
And wisdom of unreason,
Supplying, while he doubts and weighs,
The needed word in season.

" He sees with pride her richer
thought,
Her fancy's freer ranges ;
And love thus deepened to respect
Is proof against all changes.

" And if she walks at ease in ways
His feet are slow to travel,

And if she reads with cultured eyes
What his may scarce unravel,

" Still clearer, for her keener sight
Of beauty and of wonder,
He learns the meaning of the hills
He dwelt from childhood under.

" And higher, warmed with summer
lights,
Or winter-crowned and hoary,
The ridged horizon lifts for him
Its inner veils of glory.

" He has his own free, bookless lore,
The lessons nature taught him,
The wisdom which the woods and hills
And toiling men have brought him :

" The steady force of will whereby
Her flexible grace seems sweeter ;
The sturdy counterpoise which makes
Her woman's life completer :

" A latent fire of soul which lacks
No breath of love to fan it ;
And wit, that, like his native brooks,
Plays over solid granite.

" How dwarfed against his manliness
She sees the poor pretension,
The wants, the aims, the follies, born
Of fashion and convention !

" How life behind its accidents
Stands strong and self-sustaining,
The human fact transcending all
The losing and the gaining.

" And so, in grateful interchange
Of teacher and of hearer,
Their lives their true distinctness keep
While daily drawing nearer.

" And if the husband or the wife
In home's strong light discovers
Such slight defaults as failed to meet
The blinded eyes of lovers,

" Why need we care to ask ? — who
dreams
Without their thorns of roses,
Or wonders that the truest steel
The readiest spark discloses ?

" For still in mutual sufferance lies
The secret of true living :
Love scarce is love that never knows
The sweetness of forgiving.

" We send the Squire to General Court,
He takes his young wife thither ;
No prouder man election day
Rides through the sweet June weather.

" He sees with eyes of manly trust
All hearts to her inclining ;
Not less for him his household light
That others share its shining."

Thus, while my hostess spake, there
grew
Before me, warmer tinted
And outlined with a tenderer grace
The picture that she hinted.

The sunset smouldered as we drove
Beneath the deep hill-shadows.
Below us wreaths of white fog walked
Like ghosts the haunted meadows.

Sounding the summer night, the stars
Dropped down their golden plum-
mets ;
The pale arc of the Northern lights
Rose o'er the mountain summits, —

Until, at last, beneath its bridge,
We heard the Bearcamp flowing,
And saw across the mapled lawn
The welcome home-lights glow-
ing ; —

And, musing on the tale I heard,
'T were well, thought I, if often
To rugged farm-life came the gift
To harmonize and soften : —

If more and more we found the troth
Of fact and fancy plighted,
And culture's charm and labor's
strength
In rural homes united, —

The simple life, the homely hearth,
With beauty's sphere surrounding,
And blessing toil where toil abounds
With graces more abounding.

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

THE CLEAR VISION.

I DID but dream. I never knew
What charms our sternest season
wore.
Was never yet the sky so blue,
Was never earth so white before.
Till now I never saw the glow
Of sunset on yon hills of snow,
And never learned the bough's designs
Of beauty in its leafless lines.

Did ever such a morning break
As that my eastern windows see?
Did ever such a moonlight take
Weird photographs of shrub and
tree?
Rang ever bells so wild and fleet
The music of the winter street?
Was ever yet a sound by half
So merry as yon school-boy's laugh?

O Earth! with gladness overfraught,
No added charm thy face hath found;
Within my heart the change is wrought,
My footsteps makeenchanted ground.
From couch of pain and curtained room
Forth to thy light and air I come,
To find in all that meets my eyes
The freshness of a glad surprise.

Fair seem these winter days, and soon
Shall blow the warm west winds of
spring
To set the unbound rills in tune,
And hither urge the bluebird's wing.
The vales shall laugh in flowers, the
woods
Grow misty green with leafing buds,
And violets and wind-flowers sway
Against the throbbing heart of May.

Break forth, my lips, in praise, and own
The wiser love severely kind:
Since, richer for its chastening grown,
I see, whereas I once was blind.
The world, O Father! hath not wronged
With loss the life by thee prolonged;

But still, with every added year,
More beautiful thy works appear!

As thou hast made thy world without,
Make thou more fair my world within;
Shine through its lingering clouds of
doubt;
Rebuke its haunting shapes of sin;
Fill, brief or long, my granted span
Of life with love to thee and man;
Strike when thou wilt the hour of rest,
But let my last days be my best!
ad Month, 1868.

THE DOLE OF JARL THOR-KELL.

The land was pale with famine
And racked with fever-pain;
The frozen fiords were fishless,
The earth withheld her grain.

Men saw the boding Fylgia
Before them come and go,
And, through their dreams, the Urda-moon
From west to east sailed slow!

Jarl Thorkell of Thevera
At Yule-time made his vow;
On Rykdal's holy Doom-stone
He slew to Frey his cow.

To bounteous Frey he slew her:
To Skuld, the younger Norn,
Who watches over birth and death,
He gave her calf unborn.

And his little gold-haired daughter
Took up the sprinkling-rod,
And smeared with blood the temple
And the wide lips of the god.

Hoarse below, the winter water
Ground its ice-blocks o'er and o'er;
Jets of foam, like ghosts of dead waves,
Rose and fell along the shore.

The red torch of the Jokul,
Aloft in icy space,
Shone down on the bloody Horg-stones
And the statue's carven face.

And closer round and grimmer
Beneath its baleful light
The Jotun shapes of mountains
Came crowding through the night.

The gray-haired Hersir trembled
As a flame by wind is blown ;
A weird power moved his white lips,
And their voice was not his own !

" The Æsir thirst ! " he muttered ;
" The gods must have more blood
Before the tun shall blossom
Or fish shall fill the flood.

" The Æsir thirst and hunger,
And hence our blight and ban ;
The mouths of the strong gods water
For the flesh and blood of man !

" Whom shall we give the strong ones ?
Not warriors, sword on thigh ;
But let the nursing infant
And bedrid old man die."

" So be it ! " cried the young men,
" There needs nor doubt nor parle " ;
But, knitting hard his red brows,
In silence stood the Jarl.

A sound of woman's weeping
At the temple door was heard,
But the old men bowed their white
heads,
And answered not a word.

Then the Dream-wife of Thingvalla,
A Vaia young and fair,
Sang softly, stirring with her breath
The veil of her loose hair.

She sang : " The winds from Alfheim
Bring never sound of strife ;
The gifts for Frey the meetest
Are not of death, but life.

" He loves the grass-green meadows,
The grazing kine's sweet breath ;
He loathes your bloody Horg-stones,
Your gifts that smell of death.

" No wrong by wrong is righted,
No pain is cured by pain ;
The blood that smokes from Doom-
rings
Falls back in redder rain.

" The gods are what you make them,
As earth shall Asgard prove ;
And hate will come of hating,
And love will come of love.

" Make dole of skyr and black bread
That old and young may live ;
And look to Frey for favor
When first like Frey you give.

" Even now o'er Njord's sea-meadows
The summer dawn begins ;
The tun shall have its harvest,
The fiord its glancing fins."

Then up and swore Jarl Thorkell :
" By Gimli and by Hel,
O Vala of Thingvalla,
Thou singest wise and well !

" Too dear the Æsir's favors
Bought with our children's lives ;
Better die than shame in living
Our mothers and our wives.

" The full shall give his portion
To him who hath most need :
Of curdled skyr and black bread,
Be daily dole decreed."

He broke from off his neck-chain
Three links of beaten gold :
And each man, at his bidding,
Brought gifts for young and old.

Then mothers nursed their children,
And daughters fed their sires,
And Health sat down with Plenty
Before the next Yule fires.

The Horg-stones stand in Rykdal ;
The Doom-ring still remains ;
But the snows of a thousand winters
Have washed away the stains.

Christ ruleth now ; the Æsir
Have found their twilight dim ;
And, wiser than she dreamed, of old
The Vala sang of Him !

THE TWO RABBIS.

THE Rabbi Nathan, twoscore years and ten,
 Walked blameless through the evil world, and then,
 Just as the almond blossomed in his hair,
 Met a temptation all too strong to bear,
 And miserably sinned. So, adding not
 Falsehood to guilt, he left his seat, and taught
 No more among the elders, but went out
 From the great congregation girt about
 With sackcloth, and with ashes on his head,
 Making his gray locks grayer. Long he prayed,
 Smiting his breast; then, as the Book he laid
 Open before him for the Bath-Col's choice,
 Pausing to hear that Daughter of a Voice,
 Behold the royal preacher's words : "A friend
 Loveth at all times, yea, unto the end ;
 And for the evil day thy brother lives." Marvelling, he said : "It is the Lord who gives
 Counsel in need. At Ecbatana dwells Rabbi Ben Isaac, who all men excels
 In righteousness and wisdom, as the trees
 Of Lebanon the small weeds that the bees
 Bow with their weight. I will arise,
 and lay
 My sins before him."

And he went his way
 Barefooted, fasting long, with many prayers;
 But even as one who, followed un-
 aware,
 Suddenly in the darkness feels a hand
 Thrill with its touch his own, and his
 cheek fanned
 By odors subtly sweet, and whispers near

Of words he loathes, yet cannot choose
 but hear,
 So, while the Rabbi journeyed, chanting low
 The wail of David's penitential woe,
 Before him still the old temptation came,
 And mocked him with the motion and the shame
 Of such desires that, shuddering, he abhorred
 Himself; and, crying mightily to the Lord
 To free his soul and cast the demon out,
 Smote with his staff the blankness round about.

At length, in the low light of a spent day,
 The towers of Ecbatana far away
 Rose on the desert's rim ; and Nathan, faint
 And footsore, pausing where for some dead saint
 The faith of Islam reared a domed tomb,
 Saw some one kneeling in the shadow, whom
 He greeted kindly : " May the Holy One
 Answer thy prayers, O stranger ! " Whereupon
 The shape stood up with a loud cry, and then,
 Clasped in each other's arms, the two gray men
 Wept, praising Him whose gracious providence
 Made their paths one. But straightway, as the sense
 Of his transgression smote him, Nathan tore
 Himself away : " O friend beloved, no more
 Worthy am I to touch thee, for I came,
 Foul from my sins, to tell thee all my shame.
 Happly thy prayers, since naught avail-
 eth mine,
 May purge my soul, and make it white
 like thine.
 Pity me, O Ben Isaac, I have sinned ! "

Awestruck Ben Isaac stood. The desert wind
 Blew his long mantle backward, laying bare
 The mournful secret of his shirt of hair.
 "I too, O friend, if not in act," he said,
 "In thought have verily sinned. Hast thou not read,
 Better the eye should see than that desire
 Should wander?" Burning with a hidden fire
 That tears and prayers quench not, I come to thee
 For pity and for help, as thou to me.
 Pray for me, O my friend!" But Nathan cried,
 "Pray thou for me, Ben Isaac!"

Side by side

In the low sunshine by the turban stone
 They knelt; each made his brother's woe his own,
 Forgetting, in the agony and stress
 Of pitying love, his claim of selfishness;
 Peace, for his friend besought, his own became;
 His prayers were answered in another's name;
 And, when at last they rose up to embrace,
 Each saw God's pardon in his brother's face!

Long after, when his headstone gathered moss,
 Traced on the targum-marge of Onkelos
 In Rabbi Nathan's hand these words were read:
 "Hope not the cure of sin till Self is dead;
 Forget it in love's service, and the debt
 Thou canst not pay the angels shall forget;
 Heaven's gate is shut to him who comes alone;
 Save thou a soul, and it shall save thy own!"

THE MEETING.

THE elder folk shook hands at last,
 Down seat by seat the signal passed.
 To simple ways like ours unused,
 Half solemnized and half amused,
 With long-drawn breath and shrug, my guest
 His sense of glad relief expressed.
 Outside the hills lay warm in sun;
 The cattle in the meadow-run
 Stood half-leg deep; a single bird
 The green repose above us stirred.
 "What part or lot have you," he said,
 "In these dull rites of drowsy-head?
 Is silence worship? Seek it where
 It soothes with dreams the summer air,
 Not in this close and rude-benched hall,
 But where soft lights and shadows fall,
 And all the slow, sleep-walking hours
 Glide soundless over grass and flowers!
 From time and place and form apart,
 Its holy ground the human heart,
 Nor ritual-bound nor templeward
 Walks the free spirit of the Lord!
 Our common Master did not pen
 His followers up from other men;
 His service liberty indeed,
 He built no church, he framed no creed;
 But while the saintly Pharisee
 Made broader his phylactery,
 As from the synagogue was seen
 The dusty-sandalled Nazarene
 Through ripening cornfields lead the way
 Upon the awful Sabbath day,
 His sermons were the healthful talk
 That shorter made the mountain-walk,
 His wayside texts were flowers and birds,
 Where mingled with His gracious words
 The rustle of the tamarisk-tree
 And ripple-wash of Galilee."
 "Thy words are well, O friend," said;
 "Unmeasured and unlimited,
 With noiseless slide of stone to stone,
 The mystic Church of God has grown
 Invisible and silent stands
 The temple never made with hands,
 Unheard the voices still and small

Of its unseen confessional
 He needs no special place of prayer
 Whose hearing ear is everywhere ;
 He brings not back the childish days
 That ringed the earth with stones of
 praise,
 Roofed Karnak's hall of gods, and laid
 The plinths of Philæ's colonnade.
 Still less He owns the selfish good
 And sickly growth of solitude, —
 The worthless grace that, out of sight.
 Flowers in the desert anchorite ;
 Dissevered from the suffering whole,
 Love hath no power to save a soul.
 Not out of Self, the origin
 And native air and soil of sin,
 The living waters spring and flow,
 The trees with leaves of healing grow.

“ Dream not, O friend, because I seek
 This quiet shelter twice a week,
 I better deem its pine-laid floor
 Than breezy hill or sea-sung shore ;
 But nature is not solitude :
 She crowds us with her thronging
 wood ;
 Her many hands reach out to us,
 Her many tongues are garrulous ;
 Perpetual riddles of surprise
 She offers to our ears and eyes ;
 She will not leave our senses still,
 But drags them captive at her will :
 And, making earth too great for heaven,
 She hides the Giver in the given.

“ And so, I find it well to come
 For deeper rest to this still room,
 For here the habit of the soul
 Feels less the outer world's control :
 The strength of mutual purpose pleads
 More earnestly our common needs ;
 And from the silence multiplied
 By these still forms on either side,
 The world that time and sense have
 known
 Falls off and leaves us God alone.

“ Yet rarely through the charmed re-
 pose
 Unmixed the stream of motive flows,
 A flavor of its many springs,
 The tints of earth and sky it brings ;
 In the still waters needs must be
 Some shade of human sympathy ;

And here, in its accustomed place,
 I look on memory's dearest face ;
 The blind by-sitter guesseth not
 What shadow haunts that vacant spot
 No eyes save mine alone can see
 The love wherewith it welcomes me !
 And still, with those alone my kin,
 In doubt and weakness, want and sin,
 I bow my head, my heart I bare
 As when that face was living there,
 And strive (too oft, alas ! in vain)
 The peace of simple trust to gain,
 Fold fancy's restless wings, and lay
 The idols of my heart away.

“ Welcome the silence all unbroken,
 Nor less the words of fitness spoken, —
 Such golden words as hers for whom
 Our autumn flowers have just made
 room ;
 Whose hopeful utterance through and
 through
 The freshness of the morning blew :
 Who loved not less the earth that light
 Fell on it from the heavens in sight,
 But saw in all fair forms more fair
 The Eternal beauty mirrored there.
 Whose eighty years but added grace
 And saintlier meaning to her face, —
 The look of one who bore away
 Glad tidings from the hills of day,
 While all our hearts went forth to meet
 The coming of her beautiful feet !
 Or haply hers, whose pilgrim tread
 Is in the paths where Jesus led ;
 Who dreams her childhood's sabbath
 dream

By Jordan's willow-shaded stream,
 And, of the hymns of hope and faith,
 Sung by the monks of Nazareth,
 Hears pious echoes, in the call
 To prayer, from Moslem minarets fall,
 Repeating where His works were
 wrought

The lesson that her Master taught,
 Of whom an elder Sibyl gave,
 The prophecies of Cumæ's cave !

“ I ask no organ's soulless breath
 To drone the themes of life and death,
 No altar candle-lit by day,
 No ornate wordsman's rhetoric-play,
 No cool philosophy to teach
 Its bland audacities of speech

To double-tasked idolaters
Themselves their gods and worship-
pers,

No pulpit hammered by the fist
Of loud-asserting dogmatist,
Who borrows for the hand of love
The smoking thunderbolts of Jove.
I know how well the fathers taught,
What work the later schoolmen
wrought;

I reverence old-time faith and men,
But God is near us now as then ;
His force of love is still unspent,
His hate of sin as imminent ;
And still the measure of our needs
Outgrows the cramping bounds of
creeds ;

The manna gathered yesterday
Already savor of decay ;
Doubts to the world's child-heart un-
known

Question us now from star and stone ;
Too little or too much we know,
And sight is swift and faith is slow ;
The power is lost to self-deceive
With shallow forms of make-believe.
We walk at high noon, and the bells
Call to thousand oracles,
But the sound deafens, and the light
Is stronger than our dazzled sight ; .
The letters of the sacred Book
Glimmer and swim beneath our look ;
Still struggles in the Age's breast
With deepening agony of quest
The old entreaty : ' Art thou He,
Or look we for the Christ to be ?'

" God should be most where man is
least :
So, where is neither church nor priest,
And never rag of form or creed
To clothe the nakedness of need, —
Where farmer-folk in silence meet, —
I turn my bell-unsummoned feet ;
I lay the critic's glass aside,
I tread upon my lettered pride,
And, lowest-seated, testify
To the oneness of humanity ;
Confess the universal want,
And share whatever Heaven may grant.
He findeth not who seeks his own,
The soul is lost that 's saved alone.
Not on one favored forehead fell
Of old the fire-tongued miracle,

But flamed o'er all the thronging host
The baptism of the Holy Ghost ;
Heart answers heart : in one desire
The blending lines of prayer aspire ;
' Where, in my name, meet two or
three,'

Our Lord hath said, ' I there will be ! '

" So sometimes comes to soul and sense
The feeling which is evidence
That very near about us lies
The realm of spiritual mysteries.
The sphere of the supernal powers
Impinges on this world of ours.
The low and dark horizon lifts,
To light the scenic terror shifts ;
The breath of a diviner air
Blows down the answer of a prayer : —
That all our sorrow, pain, and doubt
A great compassion clasps about,
And law and goodness, love and force,
Are wedded fast beyond divorce.
Then duty leaves to love its task,
The beggar Self forgets to ask ;
With smile of trust and folded hands,
The passive soul in waiting stands
To feel, as flowers the sun and dew,
The One true Life its own renew.

" So, to the calmly gathered thought
The innermost of truth is taught,
The mystery dimly understood,
That love of God is love of good,
And, chiefly, its divinest trace
In Him of Nazareth's holy face ;
That to be saved is only this, —
Salvation from our selfishness,
From more than elemental fire,
The soul's unsanctified desire,
From sin itself, and not the pain
That warns us of its chafing chain ;
That worship's deeper meaning lies
In mercy, and not sacrifice,
Not proud humilities of sense
And posturing of penitence,
But love's unforced obedience :
That Book and Church and Day are
given
For man, not God, — for earth, not
heaven, —
The blessed means to holiest ends,
Not masters, but benignant friends ;
That the dear Christ dwells not afar,
The king of some remoter star,

Listening, at times, with flattered ear
 To homage wrung from selfish fear,
 But here, amidst the poor and blind,
 The bound and suffering of our kind,
 In works we do, in prayers we pray,
 Life of our life, he lives to-day."

THE ANSWER.

SPARE me, dread angel of reproof,
 And let the sunshine weave to-day
 Its gold-threads in the warp and woof
 Of life so poor and gray.

Spare me awhile ; the flesh is weak.
 These lingering feet, that fain would
 stray
 Among the flowers, shall some day seek
 The strait and narrow way.

Take off thy ever-watchful eye,
 The awe of thy rebuking frown ;
 The dullest slave at times must sigh
 To fling his burdens down :

To drop his galley's straining oar,
 And press, in summer warmth and
 calm,
 The lap of some enchanted shore
 Of blossom and of balm.

Grudge not my life its hour of bloom,
 My heart its taste of long desire ;
 This day be mine : be those to come
 As duty shall require.

The deep voice answered to my own,
 Smiting my selfish prayers away :
 "To-morrow is with God alone,
 And man hath but to-day.

" Say not, thy fond, vain heart within,
 The Father's arms shall still be wide,
 When from these pleasant ways of sin
 Thou turn'st at eventide.

" ' Cast thyself down,' the tempter
 saith,
 ' And angels shall thy feet upbear.'

He bids thee make a lie of faith,
 And blasphemy of prayer.

" Though God be good and free be
 Heaven,
 No force divine can love compel ;
 And, though the song of sins forgiv'er
 May sound through lowest hell,

" The sweet persuasion of His voice
 Respects thy sanctity of will.
 He giveth day : thou hast thy choice
 To walk in darkness still ;

" As one who, turning from the light,
 Watches his own gray shadow fall,
 Doubting, upon his path of night,
 If there be day at all !

" No word of doom may shut thee out,
 No wind of wrath may downward
 whirl,
 No swords of fire keep watch about
 The open gates of pearl ;

" A tenderer light than moon or sun,
 Than song of earth a sweeter hymn,
 May shine and sound forever on,
 And thou be deaf and dim.

" Forever round the Mercy-seat
 The guiding lights of Love shall burn ;
 But what if, habit-bound, thy feet
 Shall lack the will to turn ?

" What if thine eye refuse to see,
 Thine ear of Heaven's free welcome
 fail,
 And thou a willing captive be,
 Thyself thy own dark jail ?

" O doom beyond the saddest guess,
 As the long years of God unroll
 To make thy dreary selfishness
 The prison of a soul !

" To doubt the love that fain would
 break
 The fetters from thy self-bound limb ;
 And dream that God can thee forsake
 As thou forsakes him !"

G. L. S.

Hr has done the work of a true man,—
Crown him, honor him, love him.
Weep over him, tears of woman,
Stoop manliest brows above him!

O dusky mothers and daughters,
Vigils of mourning keep for him!
Up in the mountains, and down by the
waters,
Lift up your voices and weep for him!

For the warmest of hearts is frozen,
The freest of hands is still;
And the gap in our picked and chosen
The long years may not fill.

No duty could overtask him,
No need his will outrun;
Or ever our lips could ask him,
His hands the work had done.

He forgot his own soul for others,
Himself to his neighbor lending;
He found the Lord in his suffering
brothers,
And not in the clouds descending.

So the bed was sweet to die on,
Whence he saw the doors wide swung
Against whose bolted iron
The strength of his life was flung.

And he saw ere his eye was darkened
The sheaves of the harvest-bringing,
And knew while his ear yet hearkened
The voice of the reapers singing.

Ah, well! — The world is discreet;
There are plenty to pause and wait;
But here was a man who set his feet
Sometimes in advance of fate, —

Plucked off the old bark when the
inner
Was slow to renew it,
And put to the Lord's work the sinner
When saints failed to do it.

Never rode to the wrong's redressing
A worthier paladin.
Shall he not hear the blessing,
“Good and faithful, enter in!”

FREEDOM IN BRAZIL.

WITH clearer light, Cross of the South,
shine forth
In blue Brazilian skies:
And thou, O river, cleaving half the
earth

From sunset to sunrise,
From the great mountains to the At-
lantic waves
Thy joy's long anthem pour.
Yet a few days (God make them less!)
and slaves

Shall shame thy pride no more.
No fettered feet thy shaded margins
press:
But all men shall walk free
Where thou, the high-priest of the wil-
derness,
Hast wedded sea to sea.

And thou, great-hearted ruler, through
whose mouth
The word of God is said,
Once more, “Let there be light!” —
Son of the South,
Lift up thy honored head,
Wear unashamed a crown by thy desert
More than by birth thy own,
Careless of watch and ward; thou art
begirt
By grateful hearts alone.
The moated wall and battle-ship may
fail,
But safe shall justice prove;
Stronger than greaves of brass or iron
mail
The panoply of love.

Crowned doubly by man's blessing and
God's grace,
Thy future is secure;
Who frees a people makes his statue's
place
In Time's Valhalla sure.
Lo! from his Neva's banks the Scy-
thian Czar
Stretches to thee his hand
Who, with the pencil of the Northern
star,
Wrote freedom on his land.
And he whose grave is holy by our
calm
And prairied Sangamon,

From his gaunt hand shall drop the
martyr's palm
To greet thee with "Well done!"

And thou, O Earth, with smiles thy
face make sweet,
And let thy wail be stilled,
To hear the Muse of prophecy repeat
Her promise half fulfilled.
The Voice that spake at Nazareth
speaks still,
No sound thereof hath died;
Alike thy hope and Heaven's eternal
will
Shall yet be satisfied.
The years are slow, the vision tarrieth
long,
And far the end may be;
But, one by one, the fiends of ancient
wrong
Go out and leave thee free.

DIVINE COMPASSION.

LONG since, a dream of heaven I had,
And still the vision haunts me oft;
I see the saints in white robes clad,
The martyrs with their palms aloft;
But hearing still, in middle song,
The ceaseless dissonance of wrong;
And shrinking, with hid faces, from the
strain
Of sad, beseeching eyes, full of remorse
and pain.

The glad song falters to a wail,
The harping sinks to low lament;
Before the still uplifted veil
I see the crownéd foreheads bent,
Making more sweet the heavenly air,
With breathings of unselfish prayer;
And a Voice saith : "O Pity which is
pain,
O Love that weeps, fill up my suffer-
ings which remain !

" Shall souls redeemed by me refuse
To share my sorrow in their turn?
Or, sin-forgiven, my gift abuse
Of peace with selfish unconcern?
Has saintly ease no pitying care?
Has faith no work, and love no
prayer ?

While sin remains, and souls in dark-
ness dwell.
Can heaven itself be heaven, and look
unmoved on hell?"

Then through the Gates of Pain, I
dream,
A wind of heaven blows coolly in;
Fainter the awful discords seem,
The smoke of torment grows more
thin,
Tears quench the burning soil, and
thence
Spring sweet, pale flowers of peni-
tence;
And through the dreary realm of man's
despair,
Star-crowned an angel walks, and lo !
God's hope is there !

Is it a dream? Is heaven so high
That pity cannot breathe its air?
Its happy eyes forever dry,
Its holy lips without a prayer!
My God! my God! if thither led
By thy free grace unmerited,
No crown nor palm be mine, but let
me keep
A heart that still can feel, and eyes
that still can weep.

LINES ON A FLY-LEAF.

I NEED not ask thee, for my sake
To read a book which well may make
Its way by native force of wit
Without my manual sign to it.
Its piquant writer needs from me
No gravely masculine guaranty,
And well might laugh her merriest
laugh
At broken spears in her behalf;
Yet, spite of all the critics tell,
I frankly own I like her well.
It may be that she yields a pen
Too sharply nibbed for thin-skinned
men,
That her keen arrows search and try
The armor joints of dignity,
And, though alone for error meant,
Sing through the air irreverent.
I blame her not, the young athlete

Who plants her woman's tiny feet,
And dares the chances of debate
Where bearded men might hesitate,
Who, deeply earnest, see...g well
The lud...ous and laughable,
Mingling in eloquent excess
Her anger and her tenderness,
And, chiding with a half-caress,
Strives, less for her own sex than ours,
With principalities and powers,
And points us upward to the clear
Sunned heights of her new atmosphere.

Heaven mend her faults ! — I will not
pause

To weigh and doubt and peck at flaws,
Or waste my pity when some fool
Provokes her measureless ridicule.
Strong-minded is she ? Better so
Than dulness set for sale or show,
A household folly, capped and belled
In fashion's dance of puppets held,
Or poor pretence of womanhood,
Whose formal, flavorless platitude
Is warranted from all offence
Of robust meaning's violence.
Give me the wine of thought whose
bead

Sparkles along the page I read.
Electric words in which I find
The tonic of the northwest wind, —
The wisdom which itself allies
To sweet and pure humanities,
Where scorn of meanness, hate of
wrong,

Are underlaid by love as strong ;
The genial play of mirth that lights
Grave themes of thought, as, when on
nights

Of summer-time, the harmless blaze
Of thunderless heat-lightning plays,
And tree and hill-top resting dim
And doubtful op the sky's vague rim,
Touched by that soft and lambent
gleam,

Start sharply outlined from their dream.

Talk not to me of woman's sphere,
Nor point with Scripture texts a sneer,
Nor wrong the manliest saint of all
By doubt, if he were here, that Paul
Would own the heroines who have lent
Grace to truth's stern arbitrament,
Foregone the praise to woman sweet,

And cast their crowns at Duty's feet :
Like her, who by her strong Appeal
Made Fashion weep and Mammon feel,
Who, earliest summoned to withstand
The color-madness of the land,
Counted her life-long losses gain,
And made her own her sisters' pain ;
Or her who, in her greenwood shade,
Heard the sharp call that Freedom
made,
And, answering, struck from Sappho's
lyre
Of love the Tyrtæan carmen's fire :
Or that young girl, — Domrémy's maid
Revived a nobler cause to aid, —
Shaking from warning finger-tips
The doom of her apocalypse ;
Or her, who world-wide entrance gave
To the log-cabin of the slave,
Made all his want and sorrow known,
And all earth's languages his own.

H Y M N

FOR THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP AT
GEORGETOWN.

ERECTED IN MEMORY OF A MOTHER.

THOU dwellest not, O Lord of all !
In temples which thy children raise ;
Our work to thine is mean and small,
And brief to thy eternal days.

Forgive the weakness and the pride,
If marred thereby our gift may be,
For love, at least, has sanctified
The altar that we rear to thee.

The heart and not the hand has wrought
From sunken base to tower above
The image of a tender thought,
The memory of a deathless love !

And though should never sound of
speech
Or organ echo from its wall,
Its stones would pious lessons teach,
Its shade in benedictions fall.

Here should the dove of peace be
found,
And blessings and not curses given &

Nor strife profane, nor hatred wound,
The mingled loves of earth and heaven.

Thou, who didst soothe with dying
breath
The dear one watching by thy cross,

Forgetful of the pains of death
In sorrow for her mighty loss,

In memory of that tender claim,
O Mother-born, the offering take,
And make it worthy of thy name,
And bless it for a mother's sake !

MIRIAM, AND OTHER POEMS.



MIRIAM, AND OTHER POEMS.

TO FREDERICK A. P. BAR-NARD.

THE years are many since, in youth and hope,
Under the Charter Oak, our horoscope
We drew thick-studded with all favoring stars.
Now, with gray beards, and faces seamed with scars
From life's hard battle, meeting once again,
We smile, half sadly, over dreams so vain ;
Knowing, at last, that it is not in man
Who walketh to direct his steps, or plan
His permanent house of life. Alike we loved
The muses' haunts, and all our fancies moved
To measures of old song. How since that day
Our feet have parted from the path that lay
So fair before us ! Rich, from lifelong search
Of truth, within thy Academic porch
Thou sittest now, lord of a realm of fact,
Thy servitors the sciences exact ;
Still listening with thy hand on Nature's keys,
To hear the Samian's spherical harmonies
And rhythm of law. I called from dream and song,
Thank God ! so early to a strife so long,
That, ere it closed, the black, abundant hair
Of boyhood rested silver-sown and spare
On manhood's temples, now at sunset-chime
Tread with fond feet the path of morning time.

And if perchance too late I linger where
The flowers have ceased to blow, and trees are bare,
Thou, wiser in thy choice, wilt scarcely blame
The friend who shields his folly with thy name.

AMESBURY, 10/A mo., 1870.

MIRIAM.

ONE Sabbath day my friend and I
After the meeting, quietly
Passed from the crowded village lanes,
White with dry dust for lack of rains,
And climbed the neighboring slope,
with feet
Slackened and heavy from the heat,
Although the day was wellnigh done,
And the low angle of the sun
Along the naked hillside cast
Our shadows as of giants vast.
We reached, at length, the topmost swell,
Whence, either way, the green turf fell
In terraces of nature down
To fruit-hung orchards, and the town
With white, pretenceless houses, tall
Church-steeples, and, o'ershadowing all,
Huge mills whose windows had the look
Of eager eyes that ill could brook
The Sabbath rest. We traced the track
Of the sea-seeking river back
Glistening for miles above its mouth,
Through the long valley to the south.
And, looking eastward, cool to view,
Stretched the illimitable blue
Of ocean, from its curved coast-line ;
Sombred and still, the warm sunshine
Filled with pale gold-dust all the reach

Of slumberous woods from hill to beach,—
 Slanted on walls of thronged retreats
 From city toil and dusty streets,
 On grassy bluff, and dune of sand,
 And rocky islands miles from land ;
 Touched the far-glancing sails, and showed
 White lines of foam where long waves flowed
 Dumb in the distance. In the north,
 Dim through their misty hair, looked forth
 The space-dwarfed mountains to the sea,
 From mystery to mystery !

So, sitting on that green hill-slope,
 We talked of human life, its hope
 And fear, and unsolved doubts, and what

It might have been, and yet was not.
 And, when at last the evening air
 Grew sweeter for the bells of prayer
 Ringing in steeples far below,
 We watched the people churchward go,
 Each to his place, as if thereon
 The true shekinah only shone ;
 And my friend queried how it came
 To pass that they who owned the same
 Great Master still could not agree
 To worship Him in company.
 Then, broadening in his thought, he ran

Over the whole vast field of man,—
 The varying forms of faith and creed
 That somehow served 'the holders'
 need ;
 In which, unquestioned, undenied,
 Uncounted millions lived and died ;
 The bibles of the ancient folk,
 Through which the heart of nations spoke ;

The old moralities which lent
 To home its sweetness and content,
 And rendered possible to bear
 The life of peoples everywhere :
 And asked if we, who boast of light,
 Claim not a too exclusive right
 To truths which must for all be meant,
 Like rain and sunshine freely sent.
 In bondage to the letter still,
 We give it power to cramp and kill,—
 To tax God's fulness with a scheme

Narrower than Peter's house - top dream,
 His wisdom and his love with plans
 Poor and inadequate as man's.
 It must be that He witnesses
 Somehow to all men that He is :
 That something of His saving grace
 Reaches the lowest of the race,
 Who, through strange creed and rite,
 may draw
 The hints of a diviner law.
 We walk in clearer light : — but then,
 Is He not God ? — are they not men ?
 Are His responsibilities
 For us alone and not for these ?

And I made answer " Truth is one ;
 And, in all lands beneath the sun,
 Whoso hath eyes to see may see
 The tokens of its unity.
 No scroll of creed its fulness wraps,
 We trace it not by school-boy maps,
 Free as the sun and air it is
 Of latitudes and boundaries.
 In Vedic verse, in dull Korán,
 Are messages of good to man ;
 The angels to our Aryan sires
 Talked by the earliest household fires ;
 The prophets of the elder day,
 The slant-eyed sages of Cathay,
 Read not the riddle all amiss
 Of higher life evolved from this.

" Nor doth it lessen what He taught,
 Or make the gospel Jesus brought
 Less precious, that His lips retold
 Some portion of that truth of old ;
 Denying not the proven seers,
 The tested wisdom of the years ;
 Confirming with his own impress
 The common law of righteousness.
 We search the world for truth ; we cult
 The good, the pure, the beautiful,
 From graven stone and written scroll,
 From all old flower-fields of the soul ;
 And, weary seekers of the best,
 We come back laden from our quest,
 To find that all the sages said
 Is in the Book our mothers read,
 And all our treasure of old thought
 In His harmonious fulness wrought
 Who gathers in one sheaf complete
 The scattered blades of God's sown wheat,

The common growth that maketh good
His all-embracing Fatherhood.

"Wherever through the ages rise
The altars of self-sacrifice,
Where love its arms has opened wide,
Or man for man has calmly died,
I see the same white wings outspread
That hovered o'er the Master's head !
Up from undated time they come,
The martyr souls of heathendom,
And to His cross and passion bring
Their fellowship of suffering.
I trace His presence in the blind
Pathetic gropings of my kind, —
In prayers from sin and sorrow wrung,
In cradle-hymns of life they sung,
Each, in its measure, but a part
Of the unmeasured Over-Heart :
And with a stronger faith confess
The greater that it owns the less.
Good cause it is for thankfulness
That the world-blessing of His life
With the long past is not at strife ;
That the great marvel of His death
To the one order witnesseth,
No doubt of changeless goodness
wakes,

No link of cause and sequence breaks,
But, one with nature, rooted is
In the eternal verities ;
Whereby, while differing in degree
As finite from infinity,
The pain and loss for others borne,
Love's crown of suffering meekly
worn,

The life man giveth for his friend
Become vicarious in the end ;
Their healing place in nature take,
And make life sweeter for their sake.

"So welcome I from every source
The tokens of that primal Force,
Older than heaven itself, yet new
As the young heart it reaches to,
Beneath whose steady impulse rolls
The tidal wave of human souls ;
Guide, comforter, and inward word,
The eternal spirit of the Lord !
Nor fear I aught that science brings
From searching through material
things ;
Content to let its glasses prove,
Not by the letter's oldness move,

The myriad worlds on worlds that
course

The spaces of the universe ;
Since everywhere the Spirit walks
The garden of the heart, and talks
With man, as under Eden's trees,
In all his varied languages.
Why mourn above some hopeless flaw
In the stone tables of the law,
When scripture every day afresh
Is traced on tablets of the flesh ?
By inward sense, by outward signs,
God's presence still the heart divines ;
Through deepest joy of Him we learn,
In sorest grief to Him we turn,
And reason stoops its pride to share
The child-like instinct of a prayer."

And then, as is my wont, I told
A story of the days of old,
Not found in printed books, — in sooth,
A fancy, with slight hint of truth,
Showing how differing faiths agree
In one sweet law of charity.
Meanwhile the sky had golden grown,
Our faces in its glory shone ;
But shadows down the valley swept,
And gray below the ocean slept,
As time and space I wandered o'er
To tread the Mogul's marble floor,
And see a fairer sunset fall
On Jumna's wave and Agra's wall.

The good Shah Akbar (peace be his
alway !)
Came forth from the Divan at close of
day
Bowed with the burden of his many
cares,
Worn with the hearing of unnumbered
prayers, —
Wild cries for justice, the importunate
Appeals of greed and jealousy and hate,
And all the strife of sect and creed and
rite,
Santon and Gouroo waging holy fight :
For the wise monarch, claiming not
to be
Allah's avenger, left his people free,
With a faint hope, his Book scarce
justified,
That all the paths of faith, though sev-
ered wide,

O'er which the feet of prayerful reverence passed,
Met at the gate of Paradise at last.

He sought an alcove of his cool hareem,
Where, far beneath, he heard the Jumna's stream
Lapse soft and low along his palace wall,
And all about the cool sound of the fall
Of fountains, and of water circling free
Through marble ducts along the balcony ;
The voice of women in the distance sweet,
And, sweeter still, of one who, at his feet,
Soothed his tired ear with songs of a far land
Where Tagus shatters on the salt sea-sand
The mirror of its cork-grown hills of drouth
And vales of vine, at Lisbon's harbor-mouth.

The date-palms rustled not ; the peepul laid
Its topmost boughs against the balustrade,
Motionless as the mimic leaves and vines
That, light and graceful as the shawl-designs
Of Delhi or Umrtsir, twined in stone ;
And the tired monarch, who aside had thrown
The day's hard burden, sat from care apart,
And let the quiet steal into his heart
From the still hour. Below him Agra slept,
By the long light of sunset overswept :
The river flowing through a level land,
By mango-groves and banks of yellow sand,
Skirted with lime and orange, gay kiosks,
Fountains at play, tall minarets of mosques,
Fair pleasure-gardens, with their flowering trees

Relieved against the mournful cypresses ;
And, air-poised lightly as the blown sea-foam,
The marble wonder of some holy dome Hung a white moonrise over the still wood,
Glassing its beauty in a stiller flood.

Silent the monarch gazed, until the night
Swift-falling hid the city from his sight,
Then to the woman at his feet he said :
" Tell me, O Miriam, something thou hast read
In childhood of the Master of thy faith,
Whom Islam also owns. Our Prophet saith :
' He was a true apostle, yea, — a Word And Spirit sent before me from the Lord.'
Thus the Book witnesseth ; and well I know
By what thou art, O dearest, it is so.
As the lute's tone the maker's hand betrays,
The sweet disciple speaks her Master's praise."

Then Miriam, glad of heart, (for in some sort
She cherished in the Moslem's liberal court
The sweet traditions of a Christian child ;
And, through her life of sense, the undefiled
And chaste ideal of the sinless One Gazed on her with an eye she might not shun, —
The sad, reproachful look of pity, born Of love that hath no part in wrath or scorn,) Began, with low voice and moist eyes, to tell
Of the all-loving Christ, and what befell
When the fierce zealots, thirsting for her blood,
Dragged to his feet a shame of womanhood.
How, when his searching answer pierced within
Each heart, and touched the secret of its sin,

And her accusers fled his face before,
He bade the poor one go and sin no
more.
And Akbar said, after a moment's
thought,
" Wise is the lesson by thy prophet
taught :
Woe unto him who judges and forgets
What hidden evil his own heart besets !
Something of this large charity I find
In all the sects that sever human kind ;
I would to Allah that their lives agreed
More nearly with the lesson of their
creed !
Those yellow Lamas who at Meerut
pray
By wind and water power, and love to
say :
" He who forgiveth not shall, unfor-
given,
Fail of the rest of Buddha,' and who
even
Spare the black gnat that stings them,
vex my ears
With the poor hates and jealousies and
fears
Nursed in their human hives. That
lean, fierce priest
Of thy own people, (be his heart in-
creased
By Allah's love !) his black robes
smelling yet
Of Goa's roasted Jews, have I not met
Meek-faced, barefooted, crying in the
street
The saying of his prophet true and
sweet.—
" He who is merciful shall mercy
meet ! ”

But, next day, so it chanced, as night
began
To fall, a murmur through the hareem
ran
That one, recalling in her dusky face
The full-lipped, mild-eyed beauty of a
race
Known as the blameless Ethiops of
Greek song,
Plotting to do her royal master wrong,
Watching, reproachful of the lingering
light,
The evening shadows deepen for her
flight,

Love-guided, to her home in a far land,
Now waited death at the great Shah's
command.

Shapely as that dark princess for
whose smile
A world was bartered, daughter of the
Nile
Herself, and veiling in her large, soft
eyes
The passion and the languor of her skies,
The Abyssinian knelt low at the feet
Of her stern lord : " O king, if it be
meet,
And for thy honor's sake," she said,
" that I,
Who am the humblest of thy slaves,
should die,
I will not tax thy mercy to forgive.
Easier it is to die than to outlive
All that life gave me, — him whose
wrong of thee
Was but the outcome of his love for me,
Cherished from childhood, when, be-
neath the shade
Of templed Axum, side by side we
played.
Stolen from his arms, my lover followed
me
Through weary seasons over land and
sea ;
And two days since, sitting disconsolate
Within the shadow of the hareem gate,
Suddenly, as if dropping from the sky,
Down from the lattice of the balcony
Fell the sweet song by Tigre's cow-
herds sung
In the old music of his native tongue.
He knew my voice, for love is quick
of ear,
Answering in song.
This night he waited near
To fly with me. The fault was mine
alone :
He knew thee not, he did but seek his
own ;
Who, in the very shadow of thy throne,
Sharing thy bounty, knowing all thou
art,
Greatest and best of men, and in her
heart
Grateful to tears for favor undeserved,
Turned ever homeward, nor one mo-
ment swerved

From her young love. He looked into
my eyes,
He heard my voice, and could not
otherwise
Than he hath done ; yet, save one wild
embrace
When first we stood together face to
face,
And all that fate had done since last
we met
Seemed but a dream that left us chil-
dren yet,
He hath not wronged thee nor thy
royal bed ;
Spare him, O king ! and slay me in his
stead ! ”

But over Akbar's brows the frown
hung black,
And, turning to the eunuch at his
back,
“ Take them,” he said, “ and let the
Jumna's waves
Hide both my shame and these ac-
cursed slaves ! ”
His loathly length the unsexed bond-
man bowed :
“ On my head be it ! ”
Straightway from a cloud
Of dainty shawls and veils of woven
mist
The Christian Miriam rose, and, stoop-
ing, kissed
The monarch's hand. Loose down her
shoulders bare
Swept all the rippled darkness of her
hair,
Veiling the bosom that, with high,
quick swell
Offear and pity, through it rose and fell.

“ Alas ! ” she cried, “ hast thou for-
gotten quite
The words of Him we spake of yester-
night ?
Or thy own prophet's, — ‘ Whoso doth
endure
And pardon, of eternal life is sure ? ’
O great and good ! be thy revenge alone
Felt in thy mercy to the erring shown ;
Let thwarted love and youth their par-
don plead,
Who sinned but in intent, and not in
deed ! ”

One moment the strong frame of
Akbar shook
With the great storm of passion. Then
his look
Softened to her uplifted face, that still
Pleaded more strongly than all words,
until
Its pride and anger seemed like over-
blown,
Spent clouds of thunder left to tell
alone
Of strife and overcoming. With bowed
head,
And smiting on his bosom : “ God,”
he said,
“ Alone is great, and let His holy name
Be honored, even to His servant's
shame ! ”
Well spake thy prophet, Miriam, — he
alone
Who hath not sinned is meet to cast a
stone
At such as these, who here their doom
await,
Held like myself in the strong grasp
of fate.
They sinned through love, as I through
love forgive ;
Take them beyond my realm, but let
them live ! ”

And, like a chorus to the words of
grace,
The ancient Fakir, sitting in his place,
Motionless as an idol and as grim,
In the pavilion Akbar built for him
Under the courtyard trees, (for he was
wise,
Knew Menu's laws, and through his
close-shut eyes
Saw things far off, and as an open book
Into the thoughts of other men could
look.)
Began, half chant, half howling, to re-
hearse
The fragment of a holy Vedic verse ;
And thus it ran : “ He who all things
forgives
Conquers himself and all things else,
and lives
Above the reach of wrong or hate or
fear,
Calm as the gods, to whom he is most
dear.”

Two leagues from Agra still the traveller sees
 The tomb of Akbar through its cypress-trees ;
 And, near at hand, the marble walls that hide
 The Christian Begum sleeping at his side.
 And o'er her vault of burial (who shall tell
 If it be chance alone or miracle ?)
 The Mission press with tireless hand unrolls
 The words of Jesus on its lettered scrolls, —
 Tells, in all tongues, the tale of mercy o'er,
 And bids the guilty, " Go and sin no more ! "

It now was dew-fall ; very still
 The night lay on the lonely hill,
 Down which our homeward steps we bent,
 And, silent, through great silence went,
 Save that the tireless crickets played
 Their long, monotonous serenade.

A young moon, at its narrowest,
 Curved sharp against the darkening west ;

And, momently, the beacon's star,
 Slow wheeling o'er its rock afar,
 From out the level darkness shot
 One instant and again was not.
 And then my friend spake quietly
 The thought of both : " Yon crescent

see !

Like Islam's symbol-moon it gives
 Hints of the light whereby it lives :
 Somewhat of goodness, something true
 From sun and spirit shining through
 All faiths, all worlds, as through the dark

Of ocean shines the lighthouse spark,
 Attests the presence everywhere
 Of love and providential care.
 The faith the old Norse heart confessed

In one dear name, — the hopefulest
 And tenderest heard from mortal lips
 In pangs of birth or death, from ships
 Ice-bitten in the winter sea,
 Or lisped beside a mother's knee, —
 The wiser world hath not outgrown,
 And the All-Father is our own !

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

NOREM BEGA.

[Norembeaga, or Norimbegue, is the name given by early French fishermen and explorers to a fabulous country south of Cape Breton, first discovered by Verrazzani in 1524. It was supposed to have a magnificent city of the same name on a great river, probably the Penobscot. The site of this barbaric city is laid down on a map published at Antwerp in 1570. In 1604 Champlain sailed in search of the Northern Eldorado, twenty-two leagues up the Penobscot from the Isle Haute. He supposed the river to be that of Norembeaga, but wisely came to the conclusion that those travellers who told of the great city had never seen it. He saw no evidences of anything like civilization, but mentions the finding of a cross, very old and mossy, in the woods.]

THE winding way the serpent takes
 'The mystic water took,

From where, to count its beaded lakes,
 The forest sped its brook.

A narrow space 'twixt shore and shore,
 For sun or stars to fall,
 While evermore, behind, before,
 Closed in the forest wall.

The dim wood hiding underneath
 Wan flowers without a name ;
 Life tangled with decay and death,
 League after league the same.

Unbroken over swamp and hill
 The rounding shadow lay,
 Save where the river cut at will
 A pathway to the day.

Beside that track of air and light,
Weak as a child unweaned,
At shut of day a Christian knight
Upon his henchman leaned.

The embers of the sunset's fires
Along the clouds burned down ;
"I see," he said, "the domes and
spires
Of Noremberg town."

"Alack ! the domes, O master mine,
Are golden clouds on high ;
Yon spire is but the branchless pine
That cuts the evening sky."

"O bush and hark ! What sounds are
these
But chants and holy hymns ?"
"Thou hear'st the breeze that stirs the
trees
Through all their leafy limbs."

"Is it a chapel bell that fills
The air with its low tone ?"
"Thou hear'st the tinkle of the rills,
The insect's vesper drone."

"The Christ be praised ! — He sets for
me
A blessed cross in sight !"
"Now, nay, 't is but yon blasted tree
With two gaunt arms outright !"

"Be it wind so sad or tree so stark,
It mattereth not, my knave ;
Methinks to funeral hymns I hark,
The cross is for my grave !

"My life is sped ; I shall not see
My home-set sails again ;
The sweetest eyes of Normandie
Shall watch for me in vain.

"Yet onward still to ear and eye
The baffling marvel calls :
I fain would look before I die
On Noremberg's walls.

"So, haply, it shall be thy part
At Christian feet to lay
The mystery of the desert's heart
My dead hand plucked away.

"Leave me an hour of rest ; go thou
And look from yonder heights ;
Perchance the valley even now
Is starred with city lights."

The henchman climbed the nearest hill,
He saw nor tower nor town,
But, through the drear woods, lone and
still,
The river rolling down.

He heard the stealthy feet of things
Whose shapes he could not see,
A flutter as of evil wings,
The fall of a dead tree.

The pines stood black against the moon,
A sword of fire beyond ;
He heard the wolf howl, and the loon
Laugh from his reedy pond.

He turned him back : "O master dear,
We are but men misled ;
And thou hast sought a city here
To find a grave instead."

"As God shall will ! what matters where
A true man's cross may stand,
So Heaven be o'er it here as there
In pleasant Norman land ?

"These woods, perchance, no secret
hide
Of lordly tower and hall ;
Yon river in its wanderings wide
Has washed no city wall ;

"Yet mirrored in the sullen stream
The holy stars are given :
Is Noremberg, then, a dream
Whose waking is in Heaven ?

"No builded wonder of these lands
My weary eyes shall see ;
A city never made with hands
Alone awaiteth me —

"Urbs Syon mystica' ; I see
Its mansions passing fair,
'Condita cælo' ; let me be,
Dear Lord, a dweller there !

Above the dying exile hung
The vision of the bard,

As faltered on his failing tongue
The song of good Bernard.

The henchman dug at dawn a grave
Beneath the hemlocks brown,
And to the desert's keeping gave
The lord of fief and town.

Years after, when the Sieur Champlain
Sailed up the unknown stream,
And Norembega proved again
A shadow and a dream,

He found the Norman's nameless grave
Within the hemlock's shade,
And, stretching wide its arms to save,
The sign that God had made, —

The cross-boughed tree that marked
the spot
And made it holy ground :
He needs the earthly city not
Who hath the heavenly found.

NAUHAUGHT, THE DEACON.

NAUHAUGHT, the Indian deacon, who
of old
Dwelt, poor but blameless, where his
narrowing Cape
Stretches its shrunk arm out to all the
winds
And the relentless smiting of the waves,
Awoke one morning from a pleasant
dream
Of a good angel dropping in his hand
A fair, broad gold-piece, in the name
of God.

He rose and went forth with the early
day
Far inland, where the voices of the
waves
Mellowed and mingled with the whispering leaves,
As, through the tangle of the low, thick
woods,
He searched his traps. Therein nor
beast nor bird
He found ; though meanwhile in the
reedy pools
The otter plashed, and underneath the
pines

The partridge drummed : and as his
thoughts went back
To the sick wife and little child at home,
What marvel that the poor man felt his
faith
Too weak to bear its burden, — like a
rope
That, strand by strand uncoiling, breaks
above
The hand that grasps it. “ Even now,
O Lord !
Send me,” he prayed, “ the angel of
my dream !
Nauhaught is very poor; he cannot
wait.”

Even as he spake he heard at his bare
feet
A low, metallic clink, and, looking
down,
He saw a dainty purse with disks of
gold
Crowding its silken net. Awhile he
held
The treasure up before his eyes, alone
With his great need, feeling the won-
drous coins
Slide through his eager fingers, one by
one.
So then the dream was true. The
angel brought
One broad piece only ; should he take
all these ?
Who would be wiser, in the blind,
dumb woods ?
The loser, doubtless rich, would scarce-
ly miss
This dropped crumb from a table al-
ways full.
Still, while he mused, he seemed to
hear the cry
Of a starved child ; the sick face of his
wife
Tempted him. Heart and flesh in
fierce revolt
Urged the wild license of his savage
youth
Against his later scruples. Bitter toil,
Prayer, fasting, dread of blame, and
pitiless eyes
To watch his halting, — had he lost for
these
The freedom of the woods ; — the hunt-
ing-grounds

Of happy spirits for a walled-in heaven
Of everlasting psalms? One healed
the sick
Very far off thousands of moons ago:
Had he not prayed him night and day
to come
And cure his bed-bound wife? Was
there a hell?
Were all his fathers' people writhing
there—
Like the poor shell-fish set to boil
alive—
Forever, dying never? If he kept
This gold, so needed, would the dread-
ful God
Torment him like a Mohawk's captive
stuck
With slow-consuming splinters? Would
the saints
And the white angels dance and laugh
to see him
Burn like a pitch-pine torch? His
Christian garb
Seemed falling from him; with the fear
and shame
Of Adam naked at the cool of day,
He gazed around. A black snake lay
in coil
On the hot sand, a crow with sidelong
eye
Watched from a dead bough. All his
Indian lore
Of evil blending with a convert's faith
In the supernal terrors of the Book,
He saw the Tempter in the coiling
snake
And ominous, black-winged bird; and
all the while
The low rebuking of the distant waves
Stole in upon him like the voice of
God
Among the trees of Eden. Girding up
His soul's loins with a resolute hand,
he thrust
The base thought from him: "Nau-
haught, be a man!
Starve, if need be; but, while you live,
look out
From honest eyes on all men, un-
ashamed.
God help me! I'm deacon of the
church,
A baptized, praying Indian! Should
I do

This secret meanness, even the barken
knots
Of the old trees would turn to eyes to
see it,
The birds would tell of it, and all the
leaves
Whisper above me: 'Nauhaught is a
thief!'
The sun would know it, and the stars
that hide
Behind his light would watch me, and
at night
Follow me with their sharp, accusing
eyes.
Yea, thou, God, seest me!" Then
Nauhaught drew
Closer his belt of leather, dulling thus
The pain of hunger, and walked
bravely back
To the brown fishing-hamlet by the
sea;
And, pausing at the inn-door, cheerily
asked:
"Who hath lost aught to-day?"
"I," said a voice;
"Ten golden pieces, in a silken purse,
My daughter's handiwork." He
looked, and lo!
One stood before him in a coat of frieze,
And the glazed hat of a seafaring
man,
Shrewd-faced, broad-shouldered, with
no trace of winga.
Marvelling, he dropped within the
stranger's hand
The silken web, and turned to go his
way.
But the man said: "A tithe at least
is yours;
Take it in God's name as an honest
man"
And as the deacon's dusky fingers
closed
Over the golden gift, "Yea, in God's
name
I take it, with a poor man's thanks,"
he said.
So down the street that, like a river of
sand,
Ran, white in sunshine, to the summer
sea,
He sought his home, singing and
praising God;

And when his neighbors in their care-
less way
Spoke of the owner of the silken
purse —
**A Wellfleet skipper, known in every
port**
That the Cape opens in its sandy wall—
He answered, with a wise smile, to
himself:
“I saw the angel where they see a
man.”

IN SCHOOL-DAYS.

STILL sits the school-house by the
road,
A ragged beggar sunning :
Around it still the sumachs grow,
And blackberry vines are running.

Within, the master's desk is seen,
Deep scarred by raps official ;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jack-knife's carved initial ;

The charcoal frescos on its wall ;
Its door's worn sill, betraying
The feet that, creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing !

Long years ago a winter sun
Shone over it at setting ;
Lit up its western window-panes,
And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls,
And brown eyes full of grieving,
Of one who still her steps delayed
When all the school were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy
Her childish favor singled :
His cap pulled low upon a face
Where pride and shame were min-
gled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow
To right and left, he lingered ; —
As restlessly her tiny hands
The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes : he felt
The soft hand's light caressing,

And heard the tremble of her voice,
As if a fault confessing.

“ I 'm sorry that I spelt the word :
I hate to go above you,
Because,” — the brown eyes lower
fell, —
“ Because, you see, I love you ! ”

Still memory to a gray-haired man
That sweet child-face is showing.
Dear girl ! the grasses on her grave
Have forty years been growing !

He lives to learn, in life's hard school,
How few who pass above him
Lament their triumph and his loss,
Like her, — because they love him.

GARIBALDI.

IN trance and dream of old, God's
prophet saw
The casting down of thrones. Thou,
watching lone
The hot Sardinian coast-line, hazy-
hilled,
Where, fringing round Caprera's
rocky zone
With foam, the slow waves gather and
withdraw,
Behold'st the vision of the seer ful-
filled,
And hear'st the sea-winds burdened
with a sound
Of falling chains, as, one by one,
unbound,
The nations lift their right hands up
and swear
Their oath of freedom. From the
chalk-white wall
Of England, from the black Carpa-
thian range,
Along the Danube and the Theiss,
through all
The passes of the Spanish Pyrenees,
And from the Seine's thronged banks,
a murmur strange
And glad floats to thee o'er thy sum-
mer seas
On the salt wind that stirs thy whitening
hair, —
The song of freedom's bloodless
victories !

Rejoice, O Garibaldi ! Though thy sword
Failed at Rome's gates, and blood seemed vainly poured
Where, in Christ's name, the crownéd infidel
Of France wrought murder with the arms of hell
On that sad mountain slope whose ghostly dead,
Unmindful of the gray exorcist's ban,
Walk, unpeased, the chambered Vatican,
And draw the curtains of Napoleon's bed !
God's providence is not blind, but, full of eyes,
It searches all the refuges of lies : And in His time and way, the accursed things
Before whose evil feet thy battle-gage Has clashed defiance from hot youth to age
Shall perish. All men shall be priests and kings, — One royal brotherhood, one church made free
By love, which is the law of liberty !

1869.

AFTER ELECTION.

THE day's sharp strife is ended now,
Our work is done, God knoweth how ! As on the thronged, unrestful town
The patience of the moon looks down,
I wait to hear, beside the wire,
The voices of its tongues of fire.

Slow, doubtful, faint, they seem at first : Be strong, my heart, to know the worst ! Hark ! — there the Alleghanies spoke ; That sound from lake and prairie broke, That sunset-gun of triumph rent The silence of a continent !

That signal from Nebraska sprung, This, from Nevada's mountain tongue ! Is that thy answer, strong and free, O loyal heart of Tennessee ? What strange, glad voice is that which calls From Wagner's grave and Sumter's walls ?

From Mississippi's fountain-head A sound as of the bison's tread ! There rustled freedom's Charter Oak ! In that wild burst the Ozarks spoke ! Cheer answers cheer from rise to set Of sun. We have a country yet !

The praise, O God, be thine alone ! Thou givest not for bread a stone ; Thou hast not led us through the night To blind us with returning light ; Not through the furnace have we passed, To perish at its mouth at last.

O night of peace, thy flight restrain ! November's moon, be slow to wane ! Shine on the freedman's cabin floor, On brows of prayer a blessing pour ; And give, with full assurance blest, The weary heart of Freedom rest !

1868.

MY TRIUMPH.

THE autumn-time has come ; On woods that dream of bloom, And over purpling vines, The low sun fainter shines.

The aster-flower is failing, The hazel's gold is paling ; Yet overhead more near The eternal stars appear !

And present gratitude Insures the future's good, And for the things I see I trust the things to be :

That in the paths untrod, And the long days of God, My feet shall still be led, My heart be comforted.

O living friends who love me ! O dear ones gone above me ! Careless of other fame, I leave to you my name.

Hide it from idle praises, Save it from evil phrases : Why, when dear lips that spake it Are dumb, should strangers wake it ?

Let the thick curtain fall ;
I better know than all
How little I have gained,
How vast the unattained.

Not by the page word-painted
Let life be banned or sainted :
Deeper than written scroll
The colors of the soul.

Sweeter than any sung
My songs that found no tongue ;
Nobler than any fact
My wish that failed of act.

Others shall sing the song,
Others shall right the wrong,—
Finish what I begin,
And all I fail of win.

What matter, I or they ?
Mine or another's day,
So the right word be said
And life the sweeter made ?

Hail to the coming singers !
Hail to the brave light-bringers !
Forward I reach and share
All that they sing and dare.

The airs of heaven blow o'er me ;
A glory shines before me
Of what mankind shall be,—
Pure, generous, brave, and free.

A dream of man and woman
Diviner but still human,
Solving the riddle old,
Shaping the Age of Gold !

The love of God and neighbor ;
An equal-handed labor ;
The richer life, where beauty
Walks hand in hand with duty.

Ring, bells in unreared steeples,
The joy of unborn peoples !
Sound, trumpets far off blown,
Your triumph is my own !

Parcel and part of all,
I keep the festival,
Fore-reach the good to be,
And share the victory.

I feel the earth move sunward,
I join the great march onward,
And take, by faith, while living,
My freehold of thanksgiving.

THE HIVE AT GETTYSBURG.

In the old Hebrew myth the lion's
frame,

So terrible alive,
Bleached by the desert's sun and wind,
became

The wandering wild bees' hive ;
And he who, lone and naked-handed,
tore

Those jaws of death apart,
In after time drew forth their honeyed
store

To strengthen his strong heart.

Dead seemed the legend : but it only
slept

To wake beneath our sky ;
Just on the spot whence ravening
Treason crept

Back to its lair to die,
Bleeding and torn from Freedom's
mountain bounds,

A stained and shattered drum
Is now the hive where, on their flowery
rounds,

The wild bees go and come.

Unchallenged by a ghostly sentinel,
They wander wide and far,
Along green hillsides, sown with shot
and shell,

Through vales once choked with war.
The low reveille of their battle-drum
Disturbs no morning prayer ;
With deeper peace in summer noons
their hum

Fills all the drowsy air.

And Samson's riddle is our own to-day,
Of sweetness from the strong,
Of union, peace, and freedom plucked
away

From the rent jaws of wrong.
From Treason's death we draw a purer
life,

As, from the beast he slew,
A sweetness sweeter for his bitter strife
The old-time athlete drew !

HOWARD AT ATLANTA.

RIGHT in the track where Sherman
Ploughed his red furrow,
Out of the narrow cabin,
Up from the cellar's burrow,
Gathered the little black people,
With freedom newly dowered,
Where, beside their Northern teacher,
Stood the soldier, Howard.

He listened and heard the children
Of the poor and long-enslaved
Reading the words of Jesus,
Singing the songs of David.
Behold ! — the dumb lips speaking,
The blind eyes seeing !
Bones of the Prophet's vision
Warmed into being !

Transformed he saw them passing
Their new life's portal ;
Almost it seemed the mortal
Put on the immortal.
No more with the beasts of burden,
No more with stone and clod,
But crowned with glory and honor
In the image of God !

There was the human chattel
Its manhood taking ;
There, in each dark, bronze statue,
A soul was waking !
The man of many battles,
With tears his eyelids pressing,
Stretched over those dusky foreheads
His one-armed blessing.

And he said : " Who hears can never
Fear for or doubt you ;
What shall I tell the children
Up North about you ? "
Then ran round a whisper, a murmur,
Some answer devising ;
And a little boy stood up : " Massa,
Tell 'em we're rising ! "

O black boy of Atlanta !
But half was spoken :
The slave's chain and the master's
Alike are broken.
The one curse of the races
Held both in tether :
They are rising, — all are rising,
The black and white together !

O brave men and fair women !
Ill comes of hate and scorning :
Shall the dark faces only
Be turned to morning ? —
Make Time your sole avenger,
All-healing, all-redressing ;
Meet Fate half-way, and make it
A joy and blessing !

TO LYDIA MARIA CHILD,
ON READING HER POEM IN "THE
STANDARD."

THE sweet spring day is glad with
music,
But through it sounds a sadder strain ;
The worthiest of our narrowing circle
Sings Loring's dirges o'er again.

O woman greatly loved ! I join thee
In tender memories of our friend ;
With thee across the awful spaces
The greeting of a soul I send !

What cheer hath he ? How is it with
him ?
Where lingers he this weary while ?
Over what pleasant fields of Heaven
Dawns the sweet sunrise of his smile ?

Does he not know our feet are treading
The earth hard down on Slavery's
grave ?
That, in our crowning exultations,
We miss the charm his presence gave ?

Why on this spring air comes no whisper
From him to tell us all is well ?
Why to our flower-time comes no token
Of lily and of asphodel ?

I feel the unutterable longing,
Thy hunger of the heart is mine :
I reach and grope for hands in darkness,
My ear grows sharp for voice or sign.

Still on the lips of all we question
The finger of God's silence lies ;
Will the lost hands in ours be folded ?
Will the shut eyelids ever rise ?

O friend ! no proof beyond this yearning,
This outreach of our hearts, we need ;
God will not mock the hope He giveth,
No love He prompts shall vainly plead.

Then let us stretch our hands in darkness,
And call our loved ones o'er and o'er ;
Some day their arms shall close about us,
And the old voices speak once more.

No dreary splendors wait our coming
Where rapt ghost sits from ghost apart ;
Homeward we go to Heaven's thanksgiving,
The harvest-gathering of the heart.

THE PRAYER-SEEKER.

ALONG the aisle where prayer was made
A woman, all in black arrayed,
Close-veiled, between the kneeling host,
With gliding motion of a ghost,
Passed to the desk, and laid thereon
A scroll which bore these words alone,
Pray for me!

Back from the place of worshipping
She glided like a guilty thing.
The rustle of her draperies, stirred
By hurrying feet, alone was heard ;
While, full of awe, the preacher read,
As out into the dark she sped :
"Pray for me!"

Back to the night from whence she came,
To unimagined grief or shame !
Across the threshold of that door
None knew the burden that she bore ;

Alone she left the written scroll,
The legend of a troubled soul, —
Pray for me !

Glide on, poor ghost of woe or sin !
Thou leav'st a common need within ;
Each bears, like thee, some nameless weight,
Some misery inarticulate,
Some secret sin, some shrouded dread,
Some household sorrow all unsaid.
Pray for us !

Pass on ! The type of all thou art,
Sad witness to the common heart !
With face in veil and seal on lip,
In mute and strange companionship,
Like thee we wander to and fro,
Dumbly imploring as we go :
Pray for us !

Ah, who shall pray, since he who pleads
Our want perchance hath greater needs ?
Yet they who make their loss the gain
Of others shall not ask in vain,
And Heaven bends low to hear the prayer
Of love from lips of self-despair :
Pray for us !

In vain remorse and fear and hate
Beat with bruised hands against a fate,
Whose walls of iron only move,
And open to the touch of love.
He only feels his burdens fall
Who, taught by suffering, pities all.
Pray for us !

He prayeth best who leaves unguessed
The mystery of another's breast.
Why cheeks grow pale, why eyes o'er-flow,
Or heads are white, thou need'st not know.
Enough to note by many a sign
That every heart hath needs like thine.
Pray for us !

POEMS FOR PUBLIC OCCASIONS.

A SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATION

AT THE PRESIDENT'S LEVEE, BROWN UNIVERSITY, 29TH 6TH MONTH, 1870.

To-DAY the plant by Williams set
Its summer bloom discloses ;
The wilding sweet-brier of his prayer
Is crowned with cultured roses.

Once more the Island State repeats
The lesson that he taught her,
And binds his pearl of charity
Upon her brown-locked daughter.

Is 't fancy that he watches still
His Providence plantations ?
That still the careful Founder takes
A part on these occasions ?

Methinks I see that reverend form,
Which all of us so well know :
He rises up to speak ; he jogs
The presidential elbow.

"Good friends," he says, "you reap
a field
I sowed in self-denial,
For toleration had its griefs
And charity its trial.

"Great grace, as saith Sir Thomas More,
To him must needs be given
Who heareth heresy and leaves
The heretic to Heaven !

"I hear again the snuffed tones,
I see in dreary vision
Dyspeptic dreamers, spiritual bores,
And prophets with a mission.

"Each zealot thrust before my eyes
His Scripture-garbled label ;
All creeds were shouted in my ears
As with the tongues of Babel.

"Scourged at one cart-tail, each denied
The hope of every other ;
Each martyr shook his branded fist
At the conscience of his brother !

"How cleft the dreary drone of man
The shriller pipe of woman,
As Gorton led his saints elect,
Who held all things in common !

"Their gay robes trailed in ditch and swamp,
And torn by thorn and thicket,
The dancing-girls of Merry Mount
Came dragging to my 'wicket.'

"Shrill Anabaptists, shorn of ears ;
Gray witch-wives, hobbling slowly;
And Antinomians, free of law,
Whose very sins were holy.

"Hoarse ranters, crazed Fifth Monarchs,
Of stripes and bondage braggarts,
Pale Churchmen, with singed rubrics
Snatched
From Puritanic fagots.

"And last, not least, the Quakers came,
With tongues still sore from burning,
The Bay State's dust from off their feet
Before my threshold spurning :

"A motley host, the Lord's *debris*,
Faith's odds and ends together :
Well might I shrink from guests with lungs
Tough as their breeches leather :

"If, when the hangman at their heels
Came, rope in hand to catch them,
I took the hunted outcasts in,
I never sent to fetch them.

"I fed, but spared them not a whit ;
I gave to all who walked in,
Not clams and succotash alone,
But stronger meat of doctrine.

" I proved the prophets false, I pricked
The bubble of perfection,
And clapped upon their inner light
The snuffers of election.

" And, looking backward on my times,
One thing, at least, I'm proud for ;
I kept each sectary's dish apart,
And made no spiritual chowder.

" Where now the blending signs of sect
Would puzzle their assorter,
The dry-shod Quaker kept the land,
The Baptist held the water.

" A common coat now serves for both,
The hat's no more a fixture ;
And which was wet and which was dry,
Who knows in such a mixture ?

" Well ! He who fashioned Peter's
dream
To bless them all is able ;
And bird and beast and creeping thing
Make clean upon His table !

" I walked by my own light : but when
The ways of faith divided,
Was I to force unwilling feet
To tread the path that I did ?

" I touched the garment-hem of truth,
Yet saw not all its splendor ;
I knew enough of doubt to feel
For every conscience tender.

" God left men free of choice, as when
His Eden-trees were planted ;
Because they chose amiss, should I
Deny the gift He granted ?

So, with a common sense of need,
Our common weakness feeling,
I left them with myself to God
And His all-gracious dealing !

" I kept His plan whose rain and sun
To tare and wheat are given ;
And if the ways to hell were free,
I left them free to heaven ! "

Take heart with us, O man of old,
Soul-freedom's brave confessor,

So love of God and man wax strong,
Let sect and creed be lesser.

The jarring discords of thy day
In ours one hymn are swelling ;
The wandering feet, the severed paths,
All seek our Father's dwelling.

And slowly learns the world the truth
That makes us all thy debtor,—
That holy life is more than rite,
And spirit more than letter ;

That they who differ pole-wide serve
Perchance the common Master,
And other sheep He hath than they
Who graze one narrow pasture !

For truth's worst foe is he who claims
To act as God's avenger,
And deems, beyond his sentry-beat,
The crystal walls in danger !

Who sets for heresy his traps
Of verbal quirk and quibble,
And weeds the garden of the Lord
With Satan's borrowed dibble.

To-day our hearts like organ keys
One Master's touch are feeling ;
The branches of a common Vine
Have only leaves of healing.

Co-workers, yet from varied fields,
We share this restful nooning ;
The Quaker with the Baptist here
Believes in close communing.

Forgive, dear saint, the playful tone,
Too light for thy deserving ;
Thanks for thy generous faith in man,
Thy trust in God unswerving.

Still echo in the hearts of men
The words that thou hast spoken ;
No forge of hell can weld again
The fetters thou hast broken.

The pilgrim needs a pass no more
From Roman or Genevan ;
Thought-free, no ghostly tollman keeps
Henceforth the road to Heaven !

"THE LAURELS."

**AT THE TWENTIETH AND LAST
ANNIVERSARY.**

From these wild rocks I look to-day
 O'er leagues of dancing waves, and
 see
 The far, low coast-line stretch away
 To where our river meets the sea.
 The light wind blowing off the land
 Is burdened with old voices; through
 Shut eyes I see how lip and hand
 The greeting of old days renew.
 O friends whose hearts still keep their
 prime,
 Whose bright example warms and
 cheers,
 Ye teach us how to smile at Time,
 And set to music all his years !
 I thank you for sweet summer days,
 For pleasant memories lingering
 long,
 For joyful meetings, fond delays,
 And ties of friendship woven strong.
 As for the last time, side by side,
 You tread the paths familiar grown,
 I reach across the severing tide,
 And blend my farewells with your
 own.
 Make room, O river of our home !
 For other feet in place of ours,
 And in the summers yet to come,
 Make glad another Feast of Flowers!
 Hold in thy mirror, calm and deep,
 The pleasant pictures thou hast seen;
 Forget thy lovers not, but keep
 Our memory like thy laurels green.
 ISLES OF SHOALS, 7th mo., 1870.

HYMN

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EMANCIPATION AT NEWBURYPORT.

Not unto us who did but seek
 The word that burned within to speak,
 Not unto us this day belong
 The triumph and exultant song.
 Upon us fell in early youth
 The burden of unwelcome truth,

And left us, weak and frail and few,
 The censor's painful work to do.
 Thenceforth our life a fight became,
 The air we breathed was hot with
 blame ;
 For not with gauged and softened tone
 We made the bondman's cause our
 own.
 We bore, as Freedom's hope forlorn,
 The private hate, the public scorn ;
 Yet held through all the paths we trod
 Our faith in man and trust in God.
 We prayed and hoped ; but still, with
 awe,
 The coming of the sword we saw ;
 We heard the nearing steps of doom,
 We saw the shade of things to come.
 In grief which they alone can feel
 Who from a mother's wrong appeal,
 With blended lines of fear and hope
 We cast our country's horoscope.
 For still within her house of life
 We marked the lurid sign of strife,
 And, poisoning and imbittering all,
 We saw the star of Wormwood fall.
 Deep as our love for her became
 Our hate of all that wrought her shame,
 And if, thereby, with tongue and pen
 We erred, — we were but mortal men.
 We hoped for peace ; our eyes survey
 The blood-red dawn of Freedom's
 day :
 We prayed for love to loose the chain ;
 'T is torn by battle's axe in twain !
 Nor skill nor strength nor zeal of ours
 Has mined and heaved the hostile
 towers ;
 Not by our hands is turned the key
 That sets the sighing captives free.
 A redder sea than Egypt's wave
 Is piled and parted for the slave ;
 A darker cloud moves on in light ;
 A fiercer fire is guide by night !
 The praise, O Lord ! is Thine alone,
 In Thy own way Thy work is done !
 Our poor gifts at Thy feet we cast,
 To whom be glory, first and last !

THE PENNSYLVANIA PILGRIM,

AND

OTHER POEMS.

1872.



THE PENNSYLVANIA PILGRIM.

FRANCIS DANIEL PASTORIUS.

THE beginning of German emigration to America may be traced to the personal influence of William Penn, who in 1677 visited the Continent, and made the acquaintance of an intelligent and highly cultivated circle of Pietists, or *Mystics*, who, reviving in the seventeenth century the spiritual faith and worship of Tauler and the "Friends of God" in the fourteenth, gathered about the pastor Spener, and the young and beautiful Eleonora Johanna Von Merlau. In this circle originated the Frankfort Land Company, which bought of William Penn, the Governor of Pennsylvania, a tract of land near the new city of Philadelphia.

The company's agent in the New World was a rising young lawyer, Francis Daniel Pastorius, son of Judge Pastorius, of Windsheim, who, at the age of seventeen, entered the University of Altorf. He studied law at Strasburg, Basle, and Jena, and at Ratisbon, the seat of the Imperial Government, obtained a practical knowledge of international polity. Successful in all his examinations and disputations, he received the degree of Doctor of Laws at Nuremberg in 1676. In 1679 he was a law-lecturer at Frankfort, where he became deeply interested in the teachings of Dr. Spener. In 1680-81 he travelled in France, England, Ireland, and Italy with his friend Herr Von Rodeck. "I was," he says, "glad to enjoy again the company of my Christian friends, rather than be with Von Rodeck feasting and dancing." In 1683, in com-

pany with a small number of German Friends, he emigrated to America, settling upon the Frankfort Company's tract between the Schuylkill and the Delaware Rivers. The township was divided into four hamlets, namely, Germantown, Krisheim, Crefield, and Sommerhausen. Soon after his arrival he united himself with the society of Friends, and became one of its most able and devoted members, as well as the recognized head and lawgiver of the settlement. He married, two years after his arrival, Anneke (Anna), daughter of Dr. Klosterman, of Muhlheim.

In the year 1688 he drew up a memorial against slaveholding, which was adopted by the Germantown Friends and sent up to the Monthly Meeting, and thence to the Yearly Meeting at Philadelphia. It is noteworthy as the first protest made by a religious body against Negro Slavery. The original document was discovered in 1844 by the Philadelphia antiquarian, Nathan Kite, and published in "The Friend" (Vol. XVIII. No. 16). It is a bold and direct appeal to the best instincts of the heart. "Have not," he asks, "these negroes as much right to fight for their freedom as you have to keep them slaves?"

Under the wise direction of Pastorius, the Germantown settlement grew and prospered. The inhabitants planted orchards and vineyards, and surrounded themselves with souvenirs of their old home. A large number of them were linen-weavers, as well as small farmers. The Quakers were the prin-

cipal sect, but men of all religions were tolerated, and lived together in harmony. In 1693 Richard Frame published, in what he called verse, a "Description of Pennsylvania," in which he alludes to the settlement :—

"The German town of which I spoke before,
Which is at least in length one mile or
more,
Where lives High German people and
Low Dutch,
Whose trade in weaving linen cloth is
much, —
There grows the flax, as also you may
know
That from the same they do divide the
tow.
Their trade suits well their habitation, —
We find convenience for their occupation."

Pastorius seems to have been on intimate terms with William Penn, Thomas Lloyd, Chief Justice Logan, Thomas Story, and other leading men in the Province belonging to his own religious society, as also with Kelpius, the learned Mystic of the Wissahickon, with the pastor of the Swedes' church, and the leaders of the Mennonites. He wrote a description of Pennsylvania, which was published at Frankfort and Leipsic in 1700 and 1701. His "Lives of the Saints," etc., written in German and dedicated to Prof. Schurberg, his old teacher, was published in 1690. He left behind him many unpublished manuscripts covering a very wide range of subjects, most of which are now lost. One huge manuscript folio, entitled "Hive Beestock, Melliotropheum Alucar, or Rusca Apium," still remains, containing one thousand pages with about one hundred lines to a page. It is a medley of knowledge and fancy, history, philosophy, and poetry, written in seven languages. A large portion of his poetry is devoted to the pleasures of gardening, the description of flowers, and the care of bees. The following specimen of his punning Latin is addressed to an orchard-pilferer :—

"Quisquis in haec furtim reptas viridaria
nostra
Tangere fallaci poma caveto manu,
Si non obsequeris faxit Deus omne quod
opto,
Cum malis nostris ut mala cuncta feras."

Professor Oswald Seidensticker, to whose papers in *Der Deutsche Pioneer* and that able periodical the "Penn Monthly," of Philadelphia, I am indebted for many of the foregoing facts in regard to the German pilgrims of the New World, thus closes his notice of Pastorius :—

"No tombstone, not even a record of burial, indicates where his remains have found their last resting-place, and the pardonable desire to associate the homage due to this distinguished man with some visible memento cannot be gratified. There is no reason to suppose that he was interred in any other place than the Friends' old burying-ground in Germantown, though the fact is not attested by any definite source of information. After all, this obliteration of the last trace of his earthly existence is but typical of what has overtaken the times which he represents ; that Germantown which he founded, which saw him live and move, is at present but a quaint idyl of the past, almost a myth, barely remembered and little cared for by the keener race that has succeeded."

The Pilgrims of Plymouth have not lacked historian and poet. Justice has been done to their faith, courage, and self-sacrifice, and to the mighty influence of their endeavors to establish righteousness on the earth. The Quaker pilgrims of Pennsylvania, seeking the same object by different means, have not been equally fortunate. The power of their testimony for truth and holiness, peace and freedom, enforced only by what Milton calls "the unresistible might of meekness," has been felt through two centuries in the amelioration of penal severities, the abolition of slavery, the reform of the erring, the relief of the poor and suffering, — felt, in brief, in every step of human progress. But of the men themselves, with the single exception of William Penn, scarcely anything is known. Contrasted, from the outset, with the stern, aggressive Puritans of New England, they have come to be regarded as "a feeble folk," with a personality as doubtful as their unrecorded graves.

They were not soldiers, like Miles Standish; they had no figure so picturesque as Vane, no leader so rashly brave and haughty as Endicott. No Cotton Mather wrote their *Magnalia*; they had no awful drama of supernaturalism in which Satan and his angels were actors; and the only witch mentioned in their simple annals was a poor old Swedish woman, who, on complaint of her countrywomen, was tried, and acquitted of everything but imbecility and folly. Nothing but commonplace offices of civility came to pass between them and the Indians; indeed, their enemies taunted them with the fact that the savages did not regard them as Christians, but just such men as themselves. Yet it must be apparent to every careful observer of the progress of American civilization that its two principal currents had their sources in the entirely opposite directions of the Puritan and Quaker colonies. To use the words of a late writer: * "The historical forces, with which no others may be compared in their influence on the people, have been those of the Puritan and the Quaker. The strength of the one was in the confession of an invisible Presence, a righteous, eternal Will, which would establish righteousness on earth; and thence arose the conviction of a direct personal responsibility, which could be tempted by no external splendor and could be shaken by no internal agitation, and could not be evaded or transferred. The strength of the other was the witness in the human spirit to an eternal Word, an Inner Voice which spoke to each alone, while yet it spoke to every man; a Light which each was to follow, and which yet was the light of the world; and all other voices were silent before this, and the solitary path whither it led was more sacred than the worn ways of cathedral-aisles."

It will be sufficiently apparent to the reader that, in the poem which follows,

* Mulford's Nation, pp. 267, 268.

I have attempted nothing beyond a study of the life and times of the Pennsylvania colonist, — a simple picture of a noteworthy man and his locality. The colors of my sketch are all very sober, toned down to the quiet and dreamy atmosphere through which its subject is visible. Whether, in the glare and tumult of the present time, such a picture will find favor may well be questioned. I only know that it has beguiled for me some hours of weariness, and that, whatever may be its measure of public appreciation, it has been to me its own reward.

J. G. W.

AMESBURY, Fifth Month, 1872.

HAIL to posterity !
Hail, future men of Germanopolis !
Let the young generations yet to be
Look kindly upon this.
Think how your fathers left their na-
tive land, —
Dear German-land ! O sacred
hearts and homes ! —
And, where the wild beast roams,
In patience planned
New forest-homes beyond the mighty
sea,
There undisturbed and free
To live as brothers of one family.
What pains and cares beset,
What trials and what fears,
Remember, and wherein we have done
well
Follow our footsteps, men of coming
years !
Where we have failed to do
Aright, or wisely live,
Be warned by us, the better way pursue,
And, knowing we were human, even as
you,
Pity us and forgive !
Farewell, Posterity !
Farewell, dear Germany !
Forevermore farewell !

*From the Latin of FRANCIS DANIEL PAS-
TORIUS in the Germantown Records.
1688.*

PRELUDE.

I SING the Pilgrim of a softer clime
And milder speech than those brave
men's who brought
To the ice and iron of our winter time
A will as firm, a creed as stern, and
wrought
With one mailed hand, and with the
other fought.
Simply, as fits my theme, in homely
rhyme
I sing the blue-eyed German Spener
taught,
Through whose veiled, mystic faith the
Inward Light,
Steady and still, an easy brightness,
shone,
Transfiguring all things in its radiance
white.
The garland which his meekness never
sought
I bring him ; over fields of harvest
sown
With seeds of blessing, now to ripe-
ness grown,
I bid the sower pass before the reap-
ers' sight.

THE PENNSYLVANIA PIL-
GRIM.

NEVER in tenderer quiet lapsed the day
From Pennsylvania's vales of spring
away,
Where, forest-walled, the scattered
hamlets lay

Along the wedded rivers. One long
bar
Of purple cloud, on which the evening
star
Shone like a jewel on a scimitar,

Held the sky's golden gateway.
Through the deep
Hush of the woods a murmur seemed to
creep,
The Schuylkill whispering in a voice of
sleep.

All else was still. The oxen from their
ploughs

Rested at last, and from their long day's
browse
Came the dun files of Krisheim's home-
bound cows.

And the young city, round whose virgin
zone
The rivers like two mighty arms were
thrown,
Marked by the smoke of evening fires
alone,

Lay in the distance, lovely even then
With its fair women and its stately men
Gracing the forest court of William
Penn,

Urban yet sylvan ; in its rough-hewn
frames
Of oak and pine the dryads held their
claims,
And lent its streets their pleasant wood-
land names.

Anna Pastorius down the leafy lane
Looked city-ward, then stooped to
prune again
Her vines and simples, with a sigh of
pain.

For fast the streaks of ruddy sunset
paled
In the oak clearing, and, as daylight
failed,
Slow, overhead, the dusky night-birds
sailed.

Again she looked : between green walls
of shade,
With low-bent head as if with sorrow
weighed,
Daniel Pastorius slowly came and said,

" God's peace be with thee, Anna ! "
Then he stood
Silent before her, wrestling with the
mood
Of one who sees the evil and not good.

" What is it, my Pastorius ? " As she
spoke,
A slow, faint smile across his features
broke,
Sadder than tears. " Dear heart, " he
said, " our folk

" Are even as others. Yea, our goodliest Friends
Are frail; our elders have their selfish ends,
And few dare trust the Lord to make amends

" For duty's loss. So even our feeble word
For the dumb slaves the startled meeting heard
As if a stone its quiet waters stirred;

" And, as the clerk ceased reading, there began
A ripple of dissent which downward ran
In widening circles, as from man to man.

" Somewhat was said of running before sent,
Of tender fear that some their guide outwent,
Troublers of Israel. I was scarce intent

" On hearing, for behind the reverend row
Of gallery Friends, in dumb and piteous show,
I saw, methought, dark faces full of woe.

" And, in the spirit, I was taken where They toiled and suffered; I was made aware
Of shame and wrath and anguish and despair!

" And while the meeting smothered our poor plea
With cautious phrase, a Voice there seemed to be,
' As ye have done to these ye do to me! '

" So it all passed; and the old tithe went on
Of anise, mint, and cumin, till the sun Set, leaving still the weightier work undone.

" Help, for the good man faileth! Who is strong,
If these be weak? Who shall rebuke the wrong,
If these consent? How long, O Lord! how long!"

He ceased; and, bound in spirit with the bound,
With folded arms, and eyes that sought the ground,
Walked musingly his little garden round.

About him, beaded with the falling dew,
Rare plants of power and herbs of healing grew,
Such as Van Helmont and Agrippa knew.

For, by the lore of Gorlitz' gentle sage,
With the wild mystics of his dreamy age
He read the herbal signs of nature's page,

As once he heard in sweet Von Merlau's¹⁵ bowers
Fair as herself, in boyhood's happy hours,
The pious Spener read his creed in flowers.

" The dear Lord give us patience!" said his wife,
Touching with finger-tip an aloe, rise
With leaves sharp-pointed like an Aztec knife

Or Carib spear, a gift to William Penn
From the rare gardens of John Evelyn,
Brought from the Spanish Main by merchantmen.

" See this strange plant its steady purpose hold,
And, year by year, its patient leaves unfold,
Till the young eyes that watched it first are old.

" But some time, thou hast told me,
there shall come
A sudden beauty, brightness, and perfume,
The century-moulded bud shall burst in bloom.

" So may the seed which hath been sown to-day

Grow with the years, and, after long delay,
Break into bloom, and God's eternal Yea

"Answer at last the patient prayers of them
Who now, by faith alone, behold its stem
Crowned with the flowers of Freedom's diadem.

"Meanwhile, to feel and suffer, work and wait,
Remains for us. The wrong indeed is great,
But love and patience conquer soon or late."

"Well hast thou said, my Anna!"
Tenderer Than youth's caress upon the head of her Pastorius laid his hand. "Shall we demur

"Because the vision tarrieth? In an hour
We dream not of the slow-grown bud may flower,
And what was sown in weakness rise in power!"

Then through the vine-draped door whose legend read,
"PROCUL ESTE PROPHANI!" Anna led To where their child upon his little bed

Looked up and smiled. "Dear heart," she said, "If we Must bearers of a heavy burden be, Our boy, God willing, yet the day shall see

"When, from the gallery to the farthest seat,
Slave and slave-owner shall no longer meet,
But all sit equal at the Master's feet."
On the stone hearth the blazing walnut block

Set the low walls a-glimmer, snowed the cock
Rebuking Peter on the Van Wyck clock,

Shone on old tomes of law and physic, side
By side with Fox and Behmen, played at hide
And seek with Anna, midst her household pride

Of flaxen webs, and on the table, bare Of costly cloth or silver cup, but where, Tasting the fat shads of the Delaware,

The courtly Penn had praised the goodwife's cheer,
And quoted Horace o'er her home-brewed beer,
Till even grave Pastorius smiled to hear.

In such a home, beside the Schuylkill's wave,
He dwelt in peace with God and man, and gave Food to the poor and shelter to the slave.

For all too soon the New World's scandal shamed
The righteous code by Penn and Sidney framed,
And men withheld the human rights they claimed.

And slowly wealth and station sanction lent,
And hardened avarice, on its gains intent,
Stifled the inward whisper of dissent.

Yet all the while the burden rested sore On tender hearts. At last Pastorius bore Their warning message to the Church's door

In God's name; and the leaven of the word
Wrought ever after in the souls who heard,
And a dead conscience in its grave clothes stirred

To troubled life, and urged the vain
excuse
Of Hebrew custom, patriarchal use,
Good in itself if evil in abuse.

Gravely Pastorius listened, not the less
Discerning through the decent fig-leaf
dress
Of the poor plea its shame of selfish-
ness.

One Scripture rule, at least, was un-
forgot;
He hid the outcast, and bewrayed him
not;
And, when his prey the human hunter
sought,

He scrupled not, while Anna's wise
delay
And proffered cheer prolonged the
master's stay,
To speed the black guest safely on his
way.

Yet, who shall guess his bitter grief
who lends
His life to some great cause, and finds
his friends
Shame or betray it for their private
ends?

How felt the Master when his chosen
strove
In childish folly for their seats above;
And that fond mother, blinded by her
love,

Besought him that her sons, beside his
throne,
Might sit on either hand? Amidst his
own
A stranger oft, companionless and lone,
God's priest and prophet stands. The
martyr's pain
Is not alone from scourge and cell and
chain;
Sharper the pang when, shouting in
his train,

His weak disciples by their lives deny
The loud hosannas of their daily cry,
And make their echo of his truth a lie.

His forest home no hermit's cell he
found,
Guests, motley-minded, drew his hearth
around,
And held armed truce upon its neutral
ground.

There Indian chiefs with battle-bows
unstrung,
Strong, hero-limbed, like those whom
Homer sung,
Pastorius fancied, when the world was
young,

Came with their tawny women, lithhe
and tall,
Like bronzes in his friend Von Ro-
deck's hall,
Comely, if black, and not unpleasing
all.

There hungry folk in homespun drab
and gray,
Drew round his board on Monthly
Meeting day,
Genial, half merry in their friendly way.

Or, haply, pilgrims from the Fatherland,
Weak, timid, homesick, slow to under-
stand
The New World's promise, sought his
helping hand.

Or painful Kelpius⁷⁶ from his hermit
den
By Wissahickon, maddest of good men,
Dreamed o'er the Chiliast dreams of
Petersen.

Deep in the woods, where the small
river slid
Snake-like in shade, the Helmstadt
Mystic hid,
Weird as a wizard over arts forbid,

Reading the books of Daniel and of
John,
And Behmen's Morning-Redness,
through the Stone
Of Wisdom, vouchsafed to his eyes
alone,

Whereby he read what man ne'er read
before,

And saw the visions man shall see no more,
Till the great angel, striding sea and shore,

Shall bid all flesh await, on land or ships,
The warning trump of the Apocalypse,
Shattering the heavens before the dread eclipse.

Or meek-eyed Mennonist his bearded chin
Leaned o'er the gate; or Ranter, pure within,
Aired his perfection in a world of sin.

Or, talking of old home scenes, Op den Graaf
Teased the low back-log with his shodden staff,
Till the red embers broke into a laugh

And dance of flame, as if they fain would cheer
The rugged face, half tender, half austere,
Touched with the pathos of a homesick tear!

Or Sluyter,⁷⁷ saintly familist, whose word
As law the Brethren of the Manor heard,
Announced the speedy terrors of the Lord,

And turned, like Lot at Sodom, from his race,
Above a wrecked world with complacent face
Riding secure upon his plank of grace!

Haply, from Finland's birchen groves exiled,
Manly in thought, in simple ways a child,
His white hair floating round his visage mild,

The Swedish pastor sought the Quaker's door,

Pleased from his neighbor's lips to hear once more
His long-disused and half-forgotten lore.

For both could baffle Babel's lingual curse,
And speak in Bion's Doric, and rehearse
Cleanthes' hymn or Virgil's sounding verse.

And oft Pastorius and the meek old man
Argued as Quaker and as Lutheran,
Ending in Christian love, as they began.

With lettered Lloyd on pleasant morn he strayed
Where Sommerhausen over vales of shade
Looked miles away, by every flower delayed,

Or song of bird, happy and free with one
Who loved, like him, to let his memory run
Over old fields of learning, and to sun

Himself in Plato's wise philosophies,
And dream with Philo over mysteries
Whereof the dreamer never finds the keys:

To touch all themes of thought, nor weakly stop
For doubt of truth, but let the buckets drop
Deep down and bring the hidden waters up.⁷⁸

For there was freedom in that wakening time
Of tender souls; to differ was not crime;
The varying bells made up the perfect chime.

On lips unlike was laid the altar's coal,
The white, clear light, tradition-colored,
stole
Through the stained oriel of each human soul.

Gathered from many sects, the Quaker
brought
His old beliefs, adjusting to the thought
That moved his soul the creed his
fathers taught.

One faith alone, so broad that all man-
kind
Within themselves its secret witness
find,
The soul's communion with the Eter-
nal Mind,

The Spirit's law, the Inward Rule and
Guide,
Scholar and peasant, lord and serf,
allied,
The polished Penn and Cromwell's
Ironside.

As still in Hemskerck's Quaker Meet-
ing,¹⁹ face
By face in Flemish detail, we may
trace
How loose-mouthed boor and fine
ancestral grace

Sat in close contrast, — the clipt-headed
churl,
Broad market-dame, and simple serv-
ing-girl
By skirt of silk and periwig in curl !

For soul touched soul; the spiritual
treasure-trove
Made all men equal, none could rise
above
Nor sink below that level of God's
love.

So, with his rustic neighbors sitting
down,
The homespun frock beside the
scholar's gown,
Pastorius to the manners of the town

Added the freedom of the woods, and
sought
The bookless wisdom by experience
taught,
And learned to love his new-found
home, while not

Forgetful of the old ; the seasons went

Their rounds, and somewhat to his
spirit lent
Of their own calm and measureless
content.

Glad even to tears, he heard the robin
sing
His song of welcome to the Western
spring,
And bluebird borrowing from the sky
his wing.

And when the miracle of autumn came,
And all the woods with many-colored
flame
Of splendor, making summer's green-
ness tame,

Burned, unconsumed, a voice without
a sound
Spake to him from each kindled bush
around,
And made the strange, new landscape
holy ground !

And when the bitter north-wind, keen
and swift,
Swept the white street and piled the
dooryard drift,
He exercised, as Friends might say,
his gift

Of verse, Dutch, English, Latin, like
the hash
Of corn and beans in Indian succotash ;
Dull, doubtless, but with here and
there a flash,

Of wit and fine conceit, — the good
man's play
Of quiet fancies, meet to while away
The slow hours measuring off an idle
day.

At evening, while his wife put on her
look
Of love's endurance, from its niche he
took
The written pages of his ponderous
book,

And read, in half the languages of man,
His 'Rusca Apium,' which with bees
began,
And through the gamut of creation ran.

Or, now and then, the missive of some friend
In gray Altorf or storied Nürnberg
penned
Dropped in upon him like a guest to spend

The night beneath his roof-tree. Mys-
tical
The fair Von Merlau spake as waters fall
And voices sound in dreams, and yet withal

Human and sweet, as if each far, low tone,
Over the roses of her gardens blown,
Brought the warm sense of beauty all her own.

Wise Spener questioned what his friend could trace
Of spiritual influx or of saving grace
In the wild natures of the Indian race.

And learned Schurmberg, fain, at times, to look
From Talmud, Koran, Veds, and Pentateuch,
Sought out his pupil in his far-off nook,

To query with him of climatic change,
Of bird, beast, reptile, in his forest range,
Of flowers and fruits and simples new and strange.

And thus the Old and New World reached their hands
Across the water, and the friendly lands
Talked with each other from their severed strands.

Pastorius answered all: while seed and root
Sent from his new home grew to flower and fruit
Along the Rhine and at the Spessart's foot;

And, in return, the flowers his boy-hood knew

Smiled at his door, the same in form and hue,
And on his vines the Rhenish clusters grew.

No idler he; whoever else might shirk,
He set his hand to every honest work,—
Farmer and teacher, court and meeting clerk.

Still on the town seal his device is found,
Grapes, flax, and thread-spool on a trefoil ground,
With "VINUM, LINUM ET TEXTRI-
NUM" wound.

One house sufficed for gospel and for law,
Where Paul and Grotius, Scripture text and saw,
Assured the good, and held the rest in awe.

Whatever legal maze he wandered through,
He kept the Sermon on the Mount in view,
And justice always into mercy grew.

No whipping-post he needed, stocks, nor jail,
Nor ducking-stool; the orchard-thief grew pale
At his rebuke, the vixen ceased to rail.

The usurer's grasp released the forfeit land;
The slanderer faltered at the witness-stand,
And all men took his counsel for command.

Was it caressing air, the brooding love
Of tenderer skies than German land
knew of,
Green calm below, blue quietness above,

Still flow of water, deep repose of wood,
That, with a sense of loving Fatherhood
And childlike trust in the Eternal Good,

Softened all hearts, and dulled the
edge of hate,
Hushed strife, and taught impatient
zeal to wait
The slow assurance of the better state?

Who knows what goadings in their
sterner way
O'er jagged ice, relieved by granite
gray,
Blew round the men of Massachusetts
Bay?

What hate of heresy the east-wind
woke?
What hints of pitiless power and terror
spoke
In waves that on their iron coast-line
broke?

Be it as it may: within the Land of
Penn
The sectary yielded to the citizen,
And peaceful dwelt the many-creeded
men.

Peace brooded over all. No trumpet
stung
The air to madness, and no steeple flung
Alarums down from bells at midnight
rung.

The land slept well. The Indian from
his face
Washed all his war-paint off, and in the
place
Of battle-marches sped the peaceful
chase,

Or wrought for wages at the white
man's side,—
Giving to kindness what his native
pride
And lazy freedom to all else denied.

And well the curious scholar loved the
old
Traditions that his swarthy neighbors
told
By wigwam-fires when nights were
growing cold,

Discerned the fact round which their
fancy drew

Its dreams, and held their childish faith
more true
To God and man than half the creeds
he knew.⁸⁰

The desert blossomed round him;
wheat-fields rolled
Beneath the warm wind waves of green
and gold;
The planted ear returned its hundred-fold.

Great clusters ripened in a warmer sun
Than that which by the Rhine stream
shines upon
The purpling hillsides with low vines
o'errunn.

About each rustic porch the hummingbird
Tried with light bill, that scarce a
petal stirred,
The Old World flowers to virgin soil
transferred;

And the first-fruits of pear and apple,
bending
The young boughs down, their gold and
russet blending,
Made glad his heart, familiar odors
lending

To the fresh fragrance of the birch and
pine,
Life-everlasting, bay, and eglantine,
And all the subtle scents the woods
combine.

Fair First-Day mornings, steeped in
summer calm,
Warm, tender, restful, sweet with
woodland balm,
Came to him, like some mother-hallowed psalm

To the tired grinder at the noisy wheel
Of labor, winding off from memory's reel
A golden thread of music. With no peal

Of bells to call them to the house of
praise,
The scattered settlers through green
forest-ways
Walked meeting-ward. In reverent
amaze

The Indian trapper saw them, from the dim shade of the alders on the rivulet's rim,
Seek the Great Spirit's house to talk with Him.

There, through the gathered stillness multiplied And made intense by sympathy, outside
The sparrows sang, and the gold-robin cried,

A-swing upon his elm. A faint perfume breathed through the open windows of the room From locust-trees, heavy with clustered bloom.

Thither, perchance, sore-tried confessors came, Whose fervor jail nor pillory could tame,
Proud of the cropped ears meant to be their shame,

Men who had eaten slavery's bitter bread In Indian isles : pale women who had bled Under the hangman's lash, and bravely said

God's message through their prison's iron bars ; And gray old soldier-converts, seamed with scars From every stricken field of England's wars.

Lowly before the Unseen Presence knelt Each waiting heart, till haply some one felt On his moved lips the seal of silence melt.

Or, without spoken words, low breathings stole Of a diviner life from soul to soul, Baptizing in one tender thought the whole.

When shaken hands announced the meeting o'er, The friendly group still lingered at the door, Greeting, inquiring, sharing all the store

Of weekly tidings. Meanwhile youth and maid Down the green vistas of the woodland strayed, Whispered and smiled and oft their feet delayed.

Did the boy's whistle answer back the thrushes ? Did light girl laughter ripple through the bushes, As brooks make merry over roots and rushes ?

Un vexed the sweet air seemed. Without a wound The ear of silence heard, and every sound Its place in nature's fine accordance found.

And solemn meeting, summer sky and wood, Old kindly faces, youth and maidenhood, Seemed, like God's new creation, very good !

And, greeting all with quiet smile and word, Pastorius went his way. The unscared bird Sang at his side ; scarcely the squirrel stirred

At his hushed footstep on the mossy sod : And, wheresoe'er the good man looked or trod, He felt the peace of nature and of God.

His social life wore no ascetic form, He loved all beauty, without fear of harm, And in his veins his Teuton blood ran warm.

Strict to himself, of other men no spy,
He made his own no circuit-judge to try
The freer conscience of his neighbors
by.

With love rebuking, by his life alone,
Gracious and sweet, the better way was
shown,
The joy of one, who, seeking not his
own,

And faithful to all scruples, finds at last
The thorns and shards of duty over-
past,
And daily life, beyond his hope's fore-
cast,

Pleasant and beautiful with sight and
sound,
And flowers upspringing in its narrow
round,
And all his days with quiet gladness
crowned.

He sang not; but, if sometimes
tempted strong,
He hummed what seemed like Altorf's
Burschen-song,
His good wife smiled, and did not count
it wrong.

For well he loved his boyhood's brother
band;
His Memory, while he trod the New
World's strand,
A double-ganger walked the Father-
land!

If, when on frosty Christmas eves the
light
Shone on his quiet hearth, he missed
the sight
Of Yule-log, Tree, and Christ-child all
in white;

And closed his eyes, and listened to the
sweet
Old walt-songs sounding down his na-
tive street.
And watched again the dancers' min-
gling feet;

Yet not the less, when once the vision
passed,

He held the plain and sober maxims fast
Of the dear Friends with whom his lot
was cast.

Still all attuned to nature's melodies,
He loved the bird's song in his dooryard
trees,
And the low hum of home-returning
bees;

The blossomed flax, the tulip-trees in
bloom
Down the long street, the beauty and
perfume
Of apple-boughs, the mingling light and
gloom

Of Sommerhausen's woodlands, woven
through
With sun-threads; and the music the
wind drew,
Mournful and sweet, from leaves it over-
blew.

And evermore, beneath this outward
sense,
And through the common sequence of
events,
He felt the guiding hand of Providence

Reach out of space. A Voice spake in
his ear,
And lo! all other voices far and near
Died at that whisper, full of meanings
clear.

The Light of Life shone round him;
one by one
The wandering lights, that all-mislead-
ing run,
Went out like candles paling in the sun.

That Light he followed, step by step,
where'er
It led, as in the vision of the seer
The wheels moved as the spirit in the
clear

And terrible crystal moved, with all
their eyes
Watching the living splendor sink or
rise,
Its will their will, knowing no other-
wise.

Within himself he found the law of right,
He walked by faith and not the letter's sight,
And read his Bible by the Inward Light.

And if sometimes the slaves of form and rule,
Frozen in their creeds like fish in winter's pool,
Tried the large tolerance of his liberal school,

His door was free to men of every name,
He welcomed all the seeking souls who came,
And no man's faith he made a cause of blame.

But best he loved in leisure hours to see
His own dear Friends sit by him knee to knee,
In social converse, genial, frank, and free.

There sometimes silence (it were hard to tell
Who owned it first) upon the circle fell,
Hushed Anna's busy wheel, and laid its spell

On the black boy who grimaced by the hearth,
To solemnize his shining face of mirth ;
Only the old clock ticked amidst the dearth

Of sound ; nor eye was raised nor hand was stirred
In that soul-sabbath, till at last some word
Of tender counsel or low prayer was heard.

Then guests, who lingered but farewell to say
And take love's message, went their homeward way ;
So passed in peace the guileless Quaker's day.

His was the Christian's unsung Age of Gold,

A truer idyl than the bards have told
Of Arno's banks or Arcady of old.

Where still the Friends their place of burial keep,
And century-rooted mosses o'er it creep,
The Nürnberg scholar and his helpers meet sleep.

And Anna's aloe ? If it flowered at last
In Bartram's garden, did John Woolman cast
A glance upon it as he meekly passed ?

And did a secret sympathy possess
That tender soul, and for the slave's redress
Lend hope, strength, patience ? It were vain to guess.

Nay, were the plant itself but mythical,
Set in the fresco of tradition's wall
Like Jotham's bramble, mattereth not at all.

Enough to know that, through the winter's frost
And summer's heat, no seed of truth is lost,
And every duty pays at last its cost.

For, ere Pastorius left the sun and air,
God sent the answer to his lifelong prayer :
The child was born beside the Delaware,

Who, in the power a holy purpose lends,
Guided his people unto nobler ends,
And left them worthier of the name of Friends.

And lo ! the fulness of the time has come,
And over all the exile's Western home,
From sea to sea the flowers of freedom bloom !

And joy-bells ring, and silver trumpets blow ;
But not for thee, Pastorius ! Even so
The world forgets, but the wise angels know.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE PAGEANT.

A SOUND as if from bells of silver,
Or elfin cymbals smitten clear,
Through the frost-pictured panes I
hear.

A brightness which outshines the morn-
ing,
A splendor brooking no delay,
Beckons and tempts my feet away.

I leave the trodden village highway,
For virgin snow-paths glimmering
through
A jewelled elm-tree avenue;

Where, keen against the walls of saphire,
The gleaming tree-bolls, ice-em-
bossed,
Hold up their chandeliers of frost.

I tread in Orient halls enchanted,
I dream the Saga's dream of caves
Gem-lit beneath the North Sea
waves !

I walk the land of Eldorado,
I touch its mimic garden bowers,
Its silver leaves and diamond
flowers !

The flora of the mystic mine-world
Around me lifts on crystal stems
The petals of its clustered gems !

What miracle of weird transforming
Is this wild work of frost and light,
This glimpse of glory infinite !

This foregleam of the Holy City
Like that to him of Patmos given,
The white bride coming down
from heaven !

How flash the ranked and mail-clad
alders,
Through what sharp glancing
spears of reeds
The brook its muffled water leads !

Yon maple, like the bush of Horeb,
Burns unconsumed : a white, cold
fire
Rays out from every grassy spire.

Each slender rush and spike of mul-
lein,
Low laurel shrub and drooping
fern,
Transfigured, blaze where'er I
turn.

How yonder Ethiopian hemlock
Crowned with his glistening circlet
stands !
What jewels light his swarthy
hands !

Here, where the forest opens south-
ward
Between its hospitable pines,
As through a door, the warm sun
shines.

The jewels loosen on the branches,
And lightly, as the soft winds
blow,
Fall, tinkling, on the ice below.

And through the clashing of their cym-
bals
I hear the old familiar fall
Of water down the rocky wall,

Where, from its wintry prison break-
ing,
In dark and silence hidden long,
The brook repeats its summer song.

One instant flashing in the sunshine,
Keen as a sabre from its sheath,
Then lost again the ice beneath.

I hear the rabbit lightly leaping,
The foolish screaming of the jay,
The chopper's axe-stroke far away ;

The clamor of some neighboring barn-
yard,
The lazy cock's belated crow,
Or cattle-tramp in crispy snow.

And, as in some enchanted forest
The lost knight hears his comrades
sing,
And, near at hand, their bridles
ring,

So welcome I these sounds and voices,
These airs from far-off summer
blown,
This life that leaves me not alone.

For the white glory overawes me ;
The crystal terror of the seer
Of Chebar's vision blinds me here.

Rebuke me not, O sapphire heaven !
Thou stainless earth, lay not on me
Thy keen reproach of purity,

If, in this august presence-chamber,
I sigh for summer's leaf-green gloom
And warm airs thick with odorous
bloom !

Let the strange frost-work sink and
crumble,
And let the loosened tree-boughs
swing,
Till all their bells of silver ring.

Shine warmly down, thou sun of noon-
time,
On this chill pageant, melt and
move
The winter's frozen heart with love.

And, soft and low, thou wind south-
blowing,
Breathe through a veil of tenderest
haze
Thy prophecy of summer days,

Come with thy green relief of promise,
And to this dead, cold splendor
bring
The living jewels of the spring !

THE SINGER.

YEARS since (but names to me before),
Two sisters sought at eve my door ;
Two song-birds wandering from their
nest,
A gray old farm-house in the West.

How fresh of life the younger one,
Half smiles, half tears, like rain in sun !
Her gravest mood could scarce displace
The dimples of her nut-brown face.

Wit sparkled on her lips not less
For quick and tremulous tenderness :
And, following close her merriest
glance,
Dreamed through her eyes the heart's
romance.

Timid and still, the elder had
Even then a smile too sweetly sad ;
The crown of pain that all must wear
Too early pressed her midnight hair.

Yet ere the summer eve grew long,
Her modest lips were sweet with song
A memory haunted all her words
Of clover-fields and singing birds.

Her dark, dilating eyes expressed
The broad horizons of the west :
Her speech dropped prairie flowers ;
the gold
Of harvest wheat about her rolled.

Fore-doomed to song she seemed to
me :
I queried not with destiny :
I knew the trial and the need,
Yet, all the more, I said, God speed !

What could I other than I did ?
Could I a singing-bird forbid ?
Deny the wind-stirred leaf ? Rebuke
The music of the forest brook ?

She went with morning from my door,
But left me richer than before :
Thenceforth I knew her voice of cheer,
The welcome of her partial ear.

Years passed : through all the land her
name
A pleasant household word became :
All felt behind the singer stood
A sweet and gracious womanhood.

Her life was earnest work, not play :
Her tired feet climbed a weary way :
And even through her lightest strain
We heard an undertone of pain.

Unseen of her her fair fame grew,
The good she did she rarely knew,
Unguessed of her in life the love
That rained its tears her grave above.

When last I saw her, full of peace,
She waited for her great release ;
And that old friend so sage and bland,
Our later Franklin, held her hand.

For all that patriot bosoms stirs
Had moved that woman's heart of hers,
And men who toiled in storm and sun
Found her their meet companion.

Our converse, from her suffering bed
To healthful themes of life she led ;
The out-door world of bud and bloom
And light and sweetness filled her room.

Yet evermore an underthought
Of loss to come within us wrought,
And all the while we felt the strain
Of the strong will that conquered pain.

God giveth quietness at last !
The common way that all have passed
She went, with mortal yearnings fond,
To fuller life and love beyond.

Fold the rapt soul in your embrace,
My dear ones ! Give the singer place !
To you, to her, — I know not where, —
I lift the silence of a prayer.

For only thus our own we find ;
The gone before, the left behind,
All mortal voices die between ;
The unheard reaches the unseen.

Again the blackbirds sing ; the streams
Wake, laughing, from their winter
dreams,

And tremble in the April showers
The tassels of the maple flowers.

But not for her has spring renewed
The sweet surprises of the wood ;
And bird and flower are lost to her
Who was their best interpreter !

What to shut eyes has God revealed ?
What hear the ears that death has
sealed ?

What undreamed beauty passing show
Requires the loss of all we know ?

O silent land, to which we move,
Enough if there alone be love,
And mortal need can ne'er outgrow
What it is waiting to bestow !

O white soul ! from that far-off shore
Float some sweet song the waters o'er,
Our faith confirm, our fears dispel,
With the old voice we loved so well !

CHICAGO.

MEN said at vespers : " All is well ! "
In one wild night the city fell ;
Fell shrines of prayer and marts of
gain
Before the fiery hurricane.

On threescore spires had sunset shone,
Where ghastly sunrise looked on none.
Men clasped each other's hands, and
said :
" The City of the West is dead ! "

Brave hearts who fought, in slow re-
treat,
The fiends of fire from street to street,
Turned, powerless, to the blinding
glare,
The dumb defiance of despair.

A sudden impulse thrilled each wire
That signalled round that sea of fire ;
Swift words of cheer, warm heart-throbs
came ;
In tears of pity died the flame !

From East, from West, from South
and North,
The messages of hope shot forth,
And, underneath the severing wave,
The world, full-handed, reached to save.

Fair seemed the old ; but fairer still
The new, the dreary void shall fill
With dearer homes than those o'er-
thrown,
For love shall lay each corner-stone.

Rise, stricken city ! — from thee throw
The ashen sackcloth of thy woe ;
And build, as to Amphion's strain,
To songs of cheer thy walls again !

How shrivelled in thy hot distress
The primal sin of selfishness !
How instant rose, to take thy part,
The angel in the human heart !

Ah ! not in vain the flames that tossed
Above thy dreadful holocaust ;
The Christ again has preached through
thee
The Gospel of Humanity !

Then lift once more thy towers on high,
And fret with spires the western sky,
To tell that God is yet with us,
And love is still miraculous !

MY BIRTHDAY.

BENEATH the moonlight and the snow
Lies dead my latest year ;
The winter winds are wailing low
Its dirges in my ear.

I grieve not with the moaning wind
As if a loss befell ;
Before me, even as behind,
God is, and all is well !

His light shines on me from above,
His low voice speaks within, —
The patience of immortal love
Outwearing mortal sin.

Not mindless of the growing years
Of care and loss and pain,
My eyes are wet with thankful tear
For blessings which remain.

If dim the gold of life has grown,
I will not count it dross,
Nor turn from treasures still my own
To sigh for lack and loss.

The years no charm from Nature take ;
As sweet her voices call,

As beautiful her mornings break
As fair her evenings fall.

Love watches o'er my quiet ways,
Kind voices speak my name,
And lips that find it hard to praise
Are slow, at least, to blame.

How softly ebb the tides of will !
How fields, once lost or won,
Now lie behind me green and still
Beneath a level sun !

How hushed the hiss of party hate,
The clamor of the throng !
How old, harsh voices of debate
Flow into rhythmic song !

Methinks the spirit's temper grows
Too soft in this still air ;
Somewhat the restful heart foregoes
Of needed watch and prayer.

The bark by tempest vainly tossed
May founder in the calm,
And he who braved the polar frost
Faint by the isles of balm.

Better than self-indulgent years
The outlwg heart of youth,
Than pleasant songs in idle years
The tumult of the truth.

Rest for the weary hands is good,
And love for hearts that pine,
But let the manly habitude
Of upright souls be mine.

Let winds that blow from heaven be
fresh,
Dear Lord, the languid air ;
And let the weakness of the flesh
Thy strength of spirit share.

And, if the eye must fail of light,
The ear forget to hear,
Make clearer still the spirit's sight,
More fine the inward ear !

Be near me in mine hours of need
To soothe, or cheer, or warn,
And down these slopes of sunset lead
As up the hills of morn !

THE BREWING OF SOMA.

"These libations mixed with milk have been prepared for Indra; offer Soma to the drinker of Soma."—VASHISTA, Trans. by MAX MULLER.

THE fagots blazed, the caldron's smoke
Up through the green wood curled;
"Bring honey from the hollow oak,
Bring milky sap," the brewers spoke,
In the childhood of the world.

And brewed they well or brewed they ill,

The priests thrust in their rods,
First tasted, and then drank their fill,
And shouted, with one voice and will,
"Behold the drink of gods!"

They drank, and lo! in heart and brain

A new, glad life began:
The gray of hair grew young again,
The sick man laughed away his pain,
The cripple leaped and ran.

"Drink, mortals, what the gods have sent,

Forget your long annoy."

So sang the priests. From tent to tent
The Soma's sacred madness went,
A storm of drunken joy.

Then knew each rapt inebriate
A winged and glorious birth,
Soared upward, with strange joy elate,
Beat, with dazed head, Varuna's gate,
And, sobered, sank to earth.

The land with Soma's praises rang;
On Gihon's banks of shade
Its hymns the dusky maidens sang;
In joy of life or mortal pang
All men to Soma prayed.

The morning twilight of the race
Sends down these matin psalms:
And still with wondering eyes we trace
The simple prayers to Soma's grace,
That Vedic verse embalms.

As in that child-world's early year,
Each after age has striven

By music, incense, vigils drear,
And trance, to bring the skies more near,
Or lift men up to heaven! —

Some fever of the blood and brain,
Some self-exalting spell,
The scourger's keen delight of pain,
The Dervish dance, the Orphic strain,
The wild-haired Bacchant's yell, —

The desert's hair-grown hermit sunk
The saner brute below;
The naked Santon, hashish-drunk,
The cloister madness of the monk,
The fakir's torture-show!

And yet the past comes round again
And new doth old fulfil:
In sensual transports wild as vain
We brew in many a Christian fane
The heathen Soma still!

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity
Interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of thy call,
As noiseless let thy blessing fall
As fell thy manna down.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease:
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
 Thy coolness and thy balm :
 Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire ;
 Speak through the earthquake, wind,
 and fire,
 O still, small voice of calm !

A WOMAN.

O, DWARFED and wronged, and stained
 with ill,
 Behold ! thou art a woman still !
 And, by that sacred name and dear,
 I bid thy better self appear.
 Still, through thy foul disguise, I see
 The rudimental purity,
 That, spite of change and loss, makes
 good
 Thy birthright-claim of womanhood ;
 An inward loathing, deep, intense ;
 A shame that is half innocence.
 Cast off the grave-clothes of thy sin !
 Rise from the dust thou liest in,
 As Mary rose at Jesus' word,
 Redeemed and white before the Lord !
 Reclaim thy lost soul ! In His name,
 Rise up, and break thy bonds of shame.
 Art weak ? He's strong. Art fearful ?
 Hear
 The world's O'ercomer : " Be of
 cheer ! "
 What lip shall judge when He ap-
 proves ?
 Who dare to scorn the child he loves ?

DISARMAMENT.

"PUT up the sword ! " The voice of
 Christ once more
 Speaks, in the pauses of the cannon's
 roar,
 O'er fields of corn by fiery sickles
 reaped
 And left dry ashes ; over trenches
 reaped
 With nameless dead ; o'er cities starv-
 ing slow
 Under a rain of fire ; through wards of
 woe

Down which a groaning diaspora runs
 From tortured brothers, husbands,
 lovers, sons
 Of desolate women in their far-off
 homes,
 Waiting to hear the step that never
 comes !
 O men and brothers, let that voice be
 heard.
 War fails, try peace ; put up the useless
 sword !

Fear not the end. There is a story
 told
 In Eastern tents, when autumn nights
 grow cold,
 And round the fire the Mongol shep-
 herds sit
 With grave responses listening unto it :
 Once, on the errands of his mercy bent,
 Buddha, the holy and benevolent,
 Met a fell monster, huge and fierce of
 look,
 Whose awful voice the hills and forests
 shook.
 " O son of peace ! " the giant cried,
 " thy fate
 Is sealed at last, and love shall yield to
 hate."
 The unarmed Buddha looking, with no
 trace
 Of fear or anger, in the monster's face,
 In pity said : " Poor fiend, even thee I
 love."
 Lo ! as he spake the sky-tall terror sank
 To hand-breadth size ; the huge abhor-
 rence shrank
 Into the form and fashion of a dove ;
 And where the thunder of its rage was
 heard,
 Circling above him sweetly sang the
 bird :
 " Hate hath no harm for love," so ran
 the song ;
 " And peace unweaponed conquers
 every wrong ! "

THE ROBIN.

My old Welch neighbor over the way
 Crept slowly out in the sun of spring.

Pushed from her ears the locks of gray,
And listened to hear the robin sing.

Her grandson, playing at marbles,
stopped.

And, cruel in sport as boys will be,
Tossed a stone at the bird, who hopped
From bough to bough in the apple-tree.

" Nay ! " said the grandmother ;
" have you not heard,
My poor, bad boy ! of the fiery pit,
And how, drop by drop, this merciful
bird
Carries the water that quenches it ?

" He brings cool dew in his little bill,
And lets it fall on the souls of sin :
You can see the mark on his red breast
still

Of fires that scorch as he drops it in.

" My poor Bron rhuddyn ! my breast-
burned bird.
Singing so sweetly from limb to limb,
Very dear to the heart of Our Lord
Is he who pities the lost like Him ! "

" Amen ! " I said to the beautiful
myth ;
" Sing, bird of God, in my heart as
well :
Each good thought is a drop wherewith
To cool and lessen the fires of hell.

" Prayers of love like rain-drops fall,
Tears of pity are cooling dew,
And dear to the heart of Our Lord are
all
Who suffer like Him in the good they
do ! "

THE SISTERS.

ANNIE and Rhoda, sisters twain,
Woke in the night to the sound of
rain,

The rush of wind, the ramp and roar
Of great waves climbing a rocky shore.

Annie rose up in her bed-gown white,
And looked out into the storm and
night.

" Hush, and hearken ! " she cried in
fear,
" Hearest thou nothing, sister dear ? "

" I hear the sea, and theplash of rain,
And roar of the northeast hurricane.

" Get thee back to the bed so warm,
No good comes of watching a storm.

" What is it to thee, I fain would know,
That waves are roaring and wild winds
blow ?

" No lover of thine 's afloat to miss
The harbor-lights on a night like this."

" But I heard a voice cry out my name,
Up from the sea on the wind it came !

" Twice and thrice have I heard it call,
And the voice is the voice of Estwick
Hall ! "

On her pillow the sister tossed her
head.

" Hall of the Heron is safe," she said.

" In the tautest schooner that ever
swam
He rides at anchor in Anisquam.

" And, if in peril from swamping sea
Or lee shore rocks, would he call on
thee ? "

But the girl heard only the wind and
tide,
And wringing her small white hands,
she cried :

" O sister Rhoda, there 's something
wrong ;
I hear it again, so loud and long.

" Annie ! Annie ! I hear it call,
And the voice is the voice of Estwick
Hall ! "

Up sprang the elder, with eyes afame,
“Thou hast! He never would call
thy name!

“If he did, I would pray the wind and
sea
To keep him forever from thee and
me!”

Then out of the sea blew a dreadful
blast;
Like the cry of a dying man it passed.

The young girl hushed on her lips a
groan,
But through her tears a strange light
shone,—

The solemn joy of her heart’s release
To own and cherish its love in peace.

“Dearest!” she whispered, under
breath,
“Life was a lie, but true is death.

“The love I hid from myself away
Shall crown me now in the light of day.

“My ears shall never to woos list,
Never by lover my lips be kissed.

“Sacred to thee am I henceforth,
Thou in heaven and I on earth!”

She came and stood by her sister’s bed:
“Hall of the Heron is dead!” she said.

“The wind and the waves their work
have done,
We shall see him no more beneath the
sun.

“Little will reck that heart of thine,
It loved him not with a love like mine.

“I, for his sake, were he but here,
Could hem and ‘broider thy bridal gear,

“Though hands should tremble and
eyes be wet,
And stitch for stitch in my heart be set.

“But now my soul with his soul I wed;
Thine the living, and mine the dead!”

MARGUERITE.

MASSACHUSETTS BAY, 1760.

The robins sang in the orchard, the
buds into blossoms grew;
Little of human sorrow the buds and
the robins knew!

Sick, in an alien household, the poor
French neutral lay;
Into her lonesome garret fell the light
of the April day.

Through the dusty window, curtained
by the spider’s warp and woof,
On the loose-laid floor of hemlock, on
oaken ribs of roof.

The bedquilt’s faded patchwork, the
teacups on the stand,
The wheel with flaxen tangle, as it
dropped from her sick hand!

What to her was the song of the robin,
or warm morning light,
As she lay in the trance of the dying,
heedless of sound or sight?

Done was the work of her hands, she
had eaten her bitter bread;
The world of the alien people lay be-
hind her dim and dead.

But her soul went back to its child-
time; she saw the sun o’erflow
With gold the basin of Minas, and set
over Gasperau;

The low, bare flats at ebb-tide, the rush
of the sea at flood,
Through inlet and creek and river,
from dike to upland wood;

The gulls in the red of morning, the
fish-hawk’s rise and fall,
The drift of the fog in moonshine, over
the dark coast-wall.

She saw the face of her mother, she
heard the song she sang;
And far off, faintly, slowly, the bell for
vespers rang!

By her bed the hard-faced mistress sat,
smoothing the wrinkled sheet,
Peering into the face, so helpless, and
feeling into the ice-cold feet.

With a vague remorse atoning for her
greed and long abuse,
By care no longer heeded and pity too
late for use.

Up the stairs of the garret softly the
son of the mistress stepped,
Leaned over the head-board, covering
his face with his hands, and wept.

Outspake the mother, who watched
him sharply, with brow a-frown :
“ What ! love you the Papist, the beg-
gar, the charge of the town ? ”

“ Be she Papist or beggar who lies
here, I know and God knows
I love her, and fain would go with her
wherever she goes ! ”

“ O mother ! that sweet face came
pleading, for love so athirst.
You saw but the town-charge ; I knew
her God’s angel at first.”

Shaking her gray head, the mistress
hushed down a bitter cry :
And awed by the silence and shadow
of death drawing nigh,

She murmured a psalm of the Bible :
but closer the young girl pressed,
With the last of her life in her fingers,
the cross to her breast.

“ My son, come away,” cried the
mother, her voice cruel grown.
“ She is joined to her idols, like
Ephraim ; let her alone ! ”

But he knelt with his hand on her fore-
head, his lips to her ear,
And he called back the soul that was
passing : “ Marguerite, do you
hear ? ”

She paused on the threshold of Heav-
en ; love, pity, surprise,
Wistful, tender, lit up for an instant the
cloud of her eyes.

With his heart on his lips he kissed her,
but never her cheek grew red,
And the words the living long for he
spake in the ear of the dead.

And the robins sang in the orchard,
where buds to blossoms grew :
Of the folded hands and the still face
never the robins knew !

KING VOLMER AND ELSIE.

AFTER THE DANISH OF CHRISTIAN WINTER.

WHERE, over heathen doom-rings and
gray stones of the Horg,
In its little Christian city stands the
church of Vordingborg,
In merry mood King Volmer sat, for-
getful of his power,
As idle as the Goose of Gold that
brooded on his tower.

Out spake the King to Henrik, his
young and faithful squire :
“ Dar’st trust thy little Elsie, the maid
of thy desire ? ”
“ Of all the men in Denmark she loveth
only me :
As true to me is Elsie as thy Lily is to
thee.”

Loud laughed the king : “ To-morrow
shall bring another day,*
When I myself will test her ; she will
not say me nay.”
Thereat the lords and gallants, that
round about him stood,
Wagged all their heads in concert and
smiled as courtiers should.

The gray lark sings o’er Vordingborg,
and on the ancient town
From the tall tower of Valdemar the
Golden Goose looks down :
The yellow grain is waving in the
pleasant wind of morn,
The wood resounds with cry of hounds
and blare of hunter’s horn.

* A common saying of Valdemar ; hence
his sobriquet *Allday*.

In the garden of her father little Elsie
sits and spins,
And, singing with the early birds, her
daily task begins.
Gay tulips bloom and sweet mint curls
around her garden-bower,
But she is sweeter than the mint and
fairer than the flower.

About her form her kirtle blue clings
lovingly, and, white
As snow, her loose sleeves only leave
her small, round wrists in sight ;
Below the modest petticoat can only
half conceal
The motion of the lightest foot that
ever turned a wheel.

The cat sits purring at her side, bees
hum in sunshine warm ;
But, look ! she starts, she lifts her face,
she shades it with her arm.
And, hark ! a train of horsemen, with
sound of dog and horn,
Come leaping o'er the ditches, come
trampling down the corn !

Merrily rang the bridle-reins, and scarf
and plume streamed gay,
As fast beside her father's gate the
riders held their way ;
And one was brave in scarlet cloak,
with golden spur on heel,
And, as he checked his foaming steed,
the maiden checked her wheel.

"All hail among thy roses, the fairest
rose to me !
For weary months in secret my heart
has longed for thee !"
What noble knight was this ? What
words for modest maiden's ear ?
She dropped a lowly courtesy of bash-
fulness and fear.

She lifted up her spinning-wheel ; she
fain would seek the door,
Trembling in every limb, her cheek
with blushes crimsoned o'er.
"Nay, fear me not," the rider said,
"I offer heart and hand,
Bear witness these good Danish
knights who round about me
stand.

"I grant you time to think of this, &
answer as you may,
For to-morrow, little Elsie, shall bring
another day."
He spake the old phrase slyly as
glancing round his train,
He saw his merry followers seek to hide
their smiles in vain.

"The snow of pearls I'll scatter in
your curls of golden hair,
I'll line with furs the velvet of the
kirtle that you wear ;
All precious gems shall twine your
neck ; and in a chariot gay
You shall ride, my little Elsie, behind
four steeds of gray.

"And harps shall sound, and flutes
shall play, and brazen lamps
shall glow ;
On marble floors your feet shall weave
the dances to and fro
At frosty eventide for us the blazing
hearth shall shine,
While, at our ease, we play at draughts,
and drink the blood-red wine."

Then Elsie raised her head and met
her wooer face to face ;
A roguish smile shone in her eye and
on her lip found place.
Back from her low white forehead the
curls of gold she threw,
And lifted up her eyes to his steady
and clear and blue.

"I am a lowly peasant, and you a
gallant knight ;
I will not trust a love that soon may
cool and turn to slight.
If you would wed me henceforth be a
peasant, not a lord ;
I bid you hang upon the wall your
tried and trusty sword."

"To please you, Elsie, I will lay keen
Dynadel away,
And in its place will swing the scythe
and mow your father's hay."
"Nay, but your gallant scarlet cloak
my eyes can never bear :
A Vadmal coat, so plain and gray, is
all that you must wear."

"Well, Vadmal will I wear for you,"
the rider gayly spoke,
"And on the Lord's high altar I'll lay
my scarlet cloak."
"But mark," she said, "no stately
horse my peasant love must ride,
A yoke of steers before the plough is
all that he must guide."

The knight looked down upon his
steed : "Well, let him wander
free :
No other man must ride the horse that
has been backed by me
Henceforth I'll tread the furrow and to
my oxen talk,
If only little Elsie beside my plough
will walk."

"You must take from out your cellar
cask of wine and flask and can ;
The homely mead I brew you may
serve a peasant-man."
"Most willingly, fair Elsie, I'll drink
that mead of thine,
And I have my minstrel's thirsty throat
to drain my generous wine."

"Now break your shield asunder, and
shatter sign and boss,
Unmeet for peasant-wedded arms, your
knightly knee across.
And pull me down your castle from
top to basement wall,
And let your plough trace furrows in
the ruins of your hall !"

Then smiled he with a lofty pride :
right well at last he knew
The maiden of the spinning-wheel was
to her troth-plight true.
"Ah, roguish little Elsie ! you act
your part full well :
You know that I must bear my shield
and in my castle dwell !

"The lions ramping on that shield be-
tween the hearts afame
Keep watch o'er Denmark's honor, and
guard her ancient name.
For know that I am Volmer ; I dwell
in yonder towers,
Who ploughs them ploughs up Den-
mark, this goodly home of ours !

"I tempt no more, fair Elsie ! your
heart I know is true ;
Would God that all our maidens were
good and pure as you !
Well have you pleased your monarch,
and he shall well repay ;
God's peace ! Farewell ! To-morrow
will bring another day !"

He lifted up his bridle hand, he
spurred his good steed then,
And like a whirl-blast swept away with
all his gallant men.
The steel hoofs beat the rocky path :
again on winds of morn
The wood resounds with cry of hounds
and blare of hunter's horn.

"Thou true and ever faithful !" the
listening Henrik cried ;
And, leaping o'er the green hedge, he
stood by Elsie's side.
None saw the fond embracing, save,
shining from afar,
The Golden Goose that watched them
from the tower of Valdemar.

O darling girls of Denmark ! of all the
flowers that throng
Her vales of spring the fairest, I sing
for you my song.
No praise as yours so bravely rewards
the singer's skill ;
Thank God ! of maids like Elsie the
land has plenty still !

THE THREE BELLS.

BENEATH the low-hung night cloud
That raked her spintering mast
The good ship settled slowly,
The cruel leak gained fast.

Over the awful ocean
Her signal guns pealed out.
Dear God ! was that thy answer
From the horror round about ?

A voice came down the wild wind,
"Ho ! ship ahoy !" its cry :
"Our stout Three Bells of Glasgow
Shall lay till daylight by !"

Hour after hour crept slowly,
 Yet on the heaving swells
 Tossed up and down the ship-lights,
 The lights of the Three Bells !

And ship to ship made signals,
 Man answered back to man,
 While oft, to cheer and hearten
 The Three Bells nearer ran ;

And the captain from her taffrail
 Sent down his hopeful cry.
 "Take heart ! Hold on !" he shouted,
 "The Three Bells shall lay by !"

All night across the waters
 The tossing lights shone clear ;

All night from reeling taffrail
 The Three Bells sent her cheer,

And when the dreary watches
 Of storm and darkness passed,
 Just as the wreck lurched under,
 All souls were saved at last.

Sail on, Three Bells, forever,
 In grateful memory sail !
 Ring on, Three Bells of rescue,
 Above the wave and gale !

Type of the Love eternal,
 Repeat the Master's cry,
 As tossing through our darkness
 The lights of God draw nigh !

HAZEL BLOSSOMS.



NOTE. — I have ventured, in compliance with the desire of dear friends of my beloved sister ELIZABETH H. WHITTIER, to add to this little volume the few poetical pieces which she left behind her. As she was very distrustful of her own powers, and altogether without ambition for literary distinction, she shunned everything like publicity, and found far greater happiness in generous appreciation of the gifts of her friends than in the cultivation of her own. Yet it has always seemed to me, that had her health, sense of duty and fitness, and her extreme self-distrust permitted, she might have taken a high place among lyrical singers. These poems, with perhaps two or three exceptions, afford but slight indications of the inward life of the writer, who had an almost morbid dread of spiritual and intellectual egotism, or of her tenderness of sympathy, chastened mirthfulness, and pleasant play of thought and fancy, when her shy, beautiful soul opened like a flower in the warmth of social communion. In the lines on Dr. Kane her friends will see something of her fine individuality, — the rare mingling of delicacy and intensity of feeling which made her dear to them. This little poem reached Cuba while the great explorer lay on his death-bed, and we are told that he listened with grateful tears while it was read to him by his mother.

I am tempted to say more, but I write as under the eye of her who, while with us, shrank with painful deprecation from the praise or mention of performances which seemed so far below her ideal of excellence. To those who best knew her, the beloved circle of her intimate friends, I dedicate this slight memorial.

J. G. W.

AMESBURY, 9th mo., 1874.

THE summer warmth has left the sky,
The summer songs have died away;
And, withered, in the footpaths lie
The fallen leaves, but yesterday
With ruby and with topaz gay.

The grass is browning on the hills;
No pale, belated flowers recall
The astral fringes of the rills,
And drearily the dead vines fall,
Frost-blackened, from the roadside wall.

Yet, through the gray and sombre wood,
Against the dusk of fir and pine,
Last of their floral sisterhood,
The hazel's yellow blossoms shine,
The tawny gold of Afric's mine !

Small beauty hath my unsung flower,
For spring to own or summer hail;
But, in the season's saddest hour,
To skies that weep and winds that wail
Its glad surprises never fail.

O days grown cold ! O life grown old !
No rose of June may bloom again ;

But, like the hazel's twisted gold,
Through early frost and latter rain
Shall hints of summer-time remain.

And as within the hazel's bough
A gift of mystic virtue dwells,
That points to golden ores below,
And in dry desert places tells
Where flow unseen the cool, sweet wells,

So, in the wise Diviner's hand,
Be mine the hazel's grateful part
To feel, beneath a thirsty land,
The living waters thrill and start,
The beating of the rivulet's heart !

Sufficeth me the gift to light
With latest bloom the dark, cold days;
To call some hidden spring to sight
That, in these dry and dusty ways,
Shall sing its pleasant song of praise.

O Love ! the hazel-wand may fail,
But thou canst lend the surer spell,
That, passing over Baca's vale,
Repeats the old-time miracle,
And makes the desert-land a well.

SUMNER.

"I am not one who has disgraced beauty of sentiment by deformity of conduct, or the maxims of a freeman by the actions of a slave; but, by the grace of God, I have kept my life unsullied." — MILTON'S *Defence of the People of England*.

O MOTHER STATE! — the winds of
March
Blew chill o'er Auburn's Field of
God,
Where, slow, beneath a leaden arch
Of sky, thy mourning children trod.

And now, with all thy woods in leaf,
Thy fields in flower, beside thy dead
Thou sittest, in thy robes of grief,
A Rachel yet uncomforted!

And once again the organ swells,
Once more the flag is half-way hung,
And yet again the mournful bells
In all thy steeple-towers are rung.

And I, obedient to thy will,
Have come a simple wreath to lay,
Superfluous, on a grave that still
Is sweet with all the flowers of May.

I take, with awe, the task assigned;
It may be that my friend might miss,
In his new sphere of heart and mind,
Some token from my hand in this.

By many a tender memory moved,
Along the past my thought I send;
The record of the cause he loved
Is the best record of its friend.

No trumpet sounded in his ear,
He saw not Sinai's cloud and flame,
But never yet to Hebrew seer
A clearer voice of duty came.

God said: "Break thou these yokes;
undo
These heavy burdens. I ordain
A work to last thy whole life through,
A ministry of strife and pain.

"Forego thy dreams of lettered ease,
Put thou the scholar's promise by,

The rights of man are more than these."
He heard, and answered: "Here
am I!"

He set his face against the blast,
His feet against the flinty shard,
Till the hard service grew, at last,
Its own exceeding great reward.

Lifted like Saul's above the crowd,
Upon his kingly forehead fell
The first, sharp bolt of Slavery's cloud,
Launched at the truth he urged so
well.

Ah! never yet, at rack or stake,
Was sorer loss made Freedom's gain,
Than his, who suffered for her sake
The beak-torn Titan's lingering pain!

The fixed star of his faith, through all
Loss, doubt, and peril, shone the
same;
As through a night of storm, some tall,
Strong lighthouse lifts its steady
flame.

Beyond the dust and smoke he saw
The sheaves of freedom's large in-
crease,
The holy fanes of equal law,
The New Jerusalem of peace.

The weak might fear, the worldling
mock,
The faint and blind of heart regret;
All knew at last th' eternal rock
On which his forward feet were set.

The subtlest scheme of compromise
Was folly to his purpose bold;
The strongest mesh of party lies
Weak to the simplest truth he told.

One language held his heart and lip,
Straight onward to his goal he trod,

And proved the highest statesmanship
Obedience to the voice of God.

No wail was in his voice,—none
heard,
When treason's storm-cloud blackest
grew,
The weakness of a doubtful word ;
His duty, and the end, he knew.

The first to smite, the first to spare ;
When once the hostile ensigns fell,
He stretched out hands of generous
care
To lift the foe he fought so well.

For there was nothing base or small
Or craven in his soul's broad plan ;
Forgiving all things personal,
He hated only wrong to man.

The old traditions of his State,
The memories of her great and good,
Took from his life a fresher date,
And in himself embodied stood.

How felt the greed of gold and place,
The venal crew that schemed and
planned,
The fine scorn of that haughty face,
The spurning of that bribeless hand !

If than Rome's tribunes statelier
He wore his senatorial robe,
His lofty port was all for her,
The one dear spot on all the globe.

If to the master's plea he gave
The vast contempt his manhood felt,
He saw a brother in the slave,—
With man as equal man he dealt.

Proud was he? If his presence kept
Its grandeur whereso'er he trod,
As if from Plutarch's gallery stepped
The hero and the demigod,

None failed, at least, to reach his ear,
Nor want nor woe appealed in vain ;
The homesick soldier knew his cheer,
And blessed him from his ward of
pain.

Safely his dearest friends may own
The slight defects he never hid,

The surface-blemish in the stone
Of the tall, stately pyramid.

Suffice it that he never brought
His conscience to the public mart ;
But lived himself the truth he taught,
White-souled, clean-handed, pure of
heart.

What if he felt the natural pride
Of power in noble use, too true
With thin humilities to hide
The work he did, the lore he knew ?

Was he not just? Was any wronged
By that assured self-estimate ?
He took but what to him belonged,
Unenvious of another's state.

Well might he heed the words he
spake,
And scan with care the written page
Through which he still shall warm and
wake
The hearts of men from age to age.

Ah! who shall blame him now because
He solaced thus his hours of pain !
Should not the o'erworn thresher
pause,
And hold to light his golden grain ?

No sense of humor dropped its oil
On the hard ways his purpose went ;
Small play of fancy lightened toil ;
He spoke alone the thing he meant.

He loved his books, the Art that hints
A beauty veiled behind its own,
The graver's line, the pencil's tints,
The chisel's shape evoked from
stone.

He cherished, void of selfish ends,
The social courtesies that bless
And sweeten life, and loved his friends
With most unworldly tenderness.

But still his tired eyes rarely learned
The glad relief by Nature brought ;
Her mountain ranges never turned
His current of persistent thought.

The sea rolled chorus to his speech
Three-banked like Latium's tall tri-
reme,

HAZEL BLOSSOMS.

With laboring oars ; the grove and
beach
Were Forum and the Academe.

The sensuous joy from all things fair
His strenuous bent of soul repressed,
And left from youth to silvered hair
Few hours for pleasure, none for
rest.

For all his life was poor without,
O Nature, make the last amends !
Train all thy flowers his grave about,
And make thy singing-birds his
friends !

Revive again, thou summer rain,
The broken turf upon his bed !
Breathe, summer wind, thy tenderest
strain
Of low, sweet music overhead !

With calm and beauty symbolize
The peace which follows long annoy,
And lend our earth-bent, mourning
eyes
Some hint of his diviner joy.

For safe with right and truth he is,
As God lives he must live alway ;
There is no end for souls like his,
No night for children of the day !

Nor cant nor poor solicitudes
Made weak his life's great argument ;
Small leisure his for frames and moods
Who followed Duty where she went.

The broad, fair fields of God he saw
Beyond the bigot's narrow bound ;
The truths he moulded into law
In Christ's beatitudes he found.

His State-craft was the Golden Rule,
His right of vote a sacred trust ;
Clear, over threat and ridicule,
All heard his challenge : " Is it just ? "

And when the hour supreme had come,
Not for himself a thought he gave ;
In that last pang of martyrdom,
His care was for the half-freed slave.

Not vainly dusky hands upbore,
In prayer, the passing soul to heaven
Whose mercy to His suffering poor
Was service to the Master given.

Long shall the good State's annals tell,
Her children's children long be
taught,
How, praised or blamed, he guarded
well
The trust he neither shunned nor
sought.

If for one moment turned thy face,
O Mother, from thy son, not long
He waited calmly in his place
The sure remorse which follow'd
wrong.

Forgiven be the State he loved
The one brief lapse, the single blot ;
Forgotten be the stain removed,
Her righted record shows it not !

The lifted sword above her shield
With jealous care shall guard his
fame ;
The pine-tree on her ancient field
To all the winds shall speak his name.

The marble image of her son
Her loving hands shall yearly crown,
And from her pictured Pantheon
His grand, majestic face look down.

O State so passing rich before,
Who now shall doubt thy highest
claim ?
The world that counts thy jewels o'er
Shall longest pause at SUMNER'S
name !

HAZEL BLOSSOMS.

THE PRAYER OF AGASSIZ.

On the isle of Penikese,
 Ringed about by sapphire seas,
 Fanned by breezes salt and cool,
 Stood the Master with his school.
 Over sails that not in vain
 Wooed the west-wind's steady strain,
 Line of coast that low and far
 Stretched its undulating bar,
 Wings aslant along the rim
 Of the waves they stooped to skim,
 Rock and isle and glistening bay,
 Fell the beautiful white day.

Said the Master to the youth :
 " We have come in search of truth,
 Trying with uncertain key
 Door by door of mystery ;
 We are reaching, through His laws,
 To the garment-hem of Cause,
 Him, the endless, unbegun,
 The Unnamable, the One
 Light of all our light the Source,
 Life of life, and Force of force.
 As with fingers of the blind,
 We are groping here to find
 What the hieroglyphics mean
 Of the Unseen in the seen,
 What the Thought which underlies
 Nature's masking and disguise,
 What it is that hides beneath
 Blight and bloom and birth and death.
 By past efforts unavailing,
 Doubt and error, loss and failing,
 Of our weakness made aware,
 On the threshold of our task
 Let us light and guidance ask,
 Let us pause in silent prayer ! "

Then the Master in his place
 Bowed his head a little space,
 And the leaves by soft airs stirred,
 Lapse of wave and cry of bird
 Left the solemn hush unbroken
 Of that wordless prayer unspoken,
 While its wish, on earth unsaid,
 Rose to heaven interpreted.

As, in life's best hours, we hear
 By the spirit's finer ear
 His low voice within us, thus
 The All-Father heareth us ;
 And his holy ear we pain
 With our noisy words and vain
 Not for Him our violence
 Storming at the gates of sense,
 His the primal language, his
 The eternal silences !

Even the careless heart was moved,
 And the doubting gave assent,
 With a gesture reverent,
 To the Master well-beloved.
 As thin mists are glorified
 By the light they cannot hide,
 All who gazed upon him saw,
 Through its veil of tender awe,
 How his face was still uplifted
 By the old sweet look of it,
 Hopeful, trustful, full of cheer,
 And the love that casts out fear.
 Who the secret may declare
 Of that brief, unuttered prayer ?
 Did the shade before him come
 Of th' inevitable doom,
 Of the end of earth so near,
 And Eternity's new year ?

In the lap of sheltering seas
 Rests the isle of Penikese ;
 But the lord of the domain
 Comes not to his own again :
 Where the eyes that follow fail,
 On a vaster sea his sail
 Drifts beyond our beck and hail.
 Other lips within its bound
 Shall the laws of life expound ;
 Other eyes from rock and shell
 Read the world's old riddles well :
 But when breezes light and bland
 Blow from Summer's blossomed land,
 When the air is glad with wings,
 And the blithe song-sparrow sings,
 Many an eye with his still face
 Shall the living ones displace,
 Many an ear the word shall seek

He alone could fitly speak.
 And one name forevermore
 Shall be uttered o'er and o'er
 By the waves that kiss the shore,
 By the curlew's whistle sent
 Down the cool, sea-scented air ;
 In all voices known to her,
 Nature owns her worshipper,
 Half in triumph, half lament.
 Thither Love shall tearful turn,
 Friendship pause uncovered there,
 And the wisest reverence learn
 From the Master's silent prayer.

THE FRIEND'S BURIAL.

My thoughts are all in yonder town,
 Where, wept by many tears,
 To-day my mother's friend lays down
 The burden of her years.

True as in life, no poor disguise
 Of death with her is seen,
 And on her simple casket lies
 No wreath of bloom and green.

O, not for her the florist's art,
 The mocking weeds of woe,
 Dear memories in each mourner's heart
 Like heaven's white lilies blow.

And all about the softening air
 Of new-born sweetness tells,
 And the ungathered May-flowers wear
 The tints of ocean shells.

The old, assuring miracle
 Is fresh as heretofore ;
 And earth takes up its parable
 Of life from death once more.

Here organ-swell and church-bell toll
 Methinks but discord were, —
 The prayerful silence of the soul
 Is best befitting her.

No sound should break the quietude
 Alike of earth and sky ; —
 O wandering wind in Seabrook wood,
 Breathe but a half-heard sigh !

Sing softly, spring-bird, for her sake ;
 And thou not distant sea,
 Lapse lightly as if Jesus spake,
 And thou wert Galilee !

For all her quiet life flowed on
 As meadow streamlets flow,
 Where fresher green reveals alone
 The noiseless ways they go.

From her loved place of prayer I see
 The plain-robed mourners pass,
 With slow feet treading reverently
 The graveyard's springing grass.

Make room, O mourning ones, for me,
 Where, like the friends of Paul,
 That you no more her face shall see
 You sorrow most of all.

Her path shall brighten more and more
 Unto the perfect day ;
 She cannot fail of peace who bore
 Such peace with her away.

O sweet, calm face that seemed to wear
 The look of sins forgiven !
 O voice of prayer that seemed to bear
 Our own needs up to heaven !

How reverent in our midst she stood,
 Or knelt in grateful praise !
 What grace of Christian womanhood
 Was in her household ways !

For still her holy living meant
 No duty left undone ;
 The heavenly and the human blend
 Their kindred loves in one.

And if her life small leisure found
 For feasting ear and eye,
 And Pleasure, on her daily round,
 She passed unpausing by,

Yet with her went a secret sense
 Of all things sweet and fair,
 And Beauty's gracious providence
 Refreshed her unaware.

She kept her line of rectitude
 With love's unconscious ease ;
 Her kindly instincts understood
 All gentle courtesies.

An inborn charm of graciousness
Made sweet her smile and tone,
And glorified her farm-wife dress
With beauty not its own.

The dear Lord's best interpreters
Are humble human souls ;
The Gospel of a life like hers
Is more than books or scrolls.

From scheme and creed the light goes
out,
The saintly fact survives ;
The blessed Master none can doubt
Revealed in holy lives.

JOHN UNDERHILL.

A SCORE of years had come and gone
Since the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth
stone,
When Captain Underhill, bearing scars
From Indian ambush and Flemish
wars,
Left three-hilled Boston and wandered
down,
East by north, to Cocheco town.

With Vane the younger, in counsel
sweet
He had sat at Anna Hutchinson's feet,
And, when the bolt of banishment fell
On the head of his saintly oracle,
He had shared her ill as her good re-
port,
And braved the wrath of the General
Court.

He shook from his feet as he rode away
The dust of the Massachusetts Bay.
The world might bless and the world
might ban,
What did it matter the perfect man,
To whom the freedom of earth was
given,
Proof against sin, and sure of heaven ?

He cheered his heart as he rode along
With screed of Scripture and holy song,
Or thought how he rode with his lances
free
By the Lower Rhine and the Zuyder-
Zee,

Till his wood-path grew to a trodden
road,
And Hilton Point in the distance
showed.

He saw the church with the block-
house nigh,
The two fair rivers, the flakes thereby,
And, tacking to windward, low and
crank,
The little shallop from Strawberry
Bank ;
And he rose in his stirrups and looked
abroad
Over land and water, and praised the
Lord.

Goodly and stately and grave to see,
Into the clearing's space rode he,
With the sun on the hilt of his sword
in sheath,
And his silver buckles and spurs be-
neath,
And the settlers welcomed him, one and
all,
From swift Quampeagan to Gonic Fall.

And he said to the elders : " Lo, I
come
As the way seemed open to seek a
home.
Somewhat the Lord hath wrought by
my hands
In the Narragansett and Netherlands,
And if here ye have work for a Chris-
tian man,
I will tarry, and serve ye as best I can.

" I boast not of gifts, but fain would
own
The wonderful favor God hath shown,
The special mercy vouchsafed one day
On the shore of Narragansett Bay,
As I sat, with my pipe, from the camp
aside,
And mused like Isaac at eventide.

" A sudden sweetness of peace I found,
A garment of gladness wrapped me
round ;
I felt from the law of works released,
The strife of the flesh and spirit ceased,
My faith to a full assurance grew,
And all I had hoped for myself I knew.

HAZEL BLOSSOMS.

"Now, as God appointeth, I keep my way,
I shall not stumble, I shall not stray ;
He hath taken away my fig-leaf dress,
I wear the robe of his righteousness ;
And the shafts of Satan no more avail
Than Pequot arrows on Christian mail."

"Tarry with us," the settlers cried,
"Thou man of God, as our ruler and guide."

And Captain Underhill bowed his head.
"The will of the Lord be done!" he said.

And the morrow beheld him sitting down
In the ruler's seat in Cocheco town.

And he judged therein as a just man should ;
His words were wise and his rule was good ;

He coveted not his neighbor's land,
From the holding of bribes he shook his hand ;

And through the camps of the heathen ran

A wholesome fear of the valiant man.

But the heart is deceitful, the good Book saith,
And life hath ever a savor of death.
Through hymns of triumph the tempter calls,

And whoso thinketh he standeth falls.
Alas ! ere their round the seasons ran,
There was grief in the soul of the saintly man.

The tempter's arrows that rarely fail
Had found the joints of his spiritual mail ;

And men took note of his gloomy air,
The shame in his eye, the halt in his prayer,
The signs of a battle lost within,
The pain of a soul in the coils of sin.

Then a whisper of scandal linked his name

With broken vows and a life of blame ;
And the people looked askance on him
As he walked among them sullen and grim,

Ill at ease, and bitter of word,
And prompt of quarrel with hand or sword.

None knew how, with prayer and fasting still,
He strove in the bonds of his evil will ;
But he shook himself like Samson at length,
And girded anew his loins of strength,
And bade the crier go up and down
And call together the wondering town.

Jeer and murmur and shaking of head
Ceased as he rose in his place and said :
"Men, brethren, and fathers, well ye know

How I came among you a year ago,
Strong in the faith that my soul was freed
From sin of feeling, or thought, or deed.

"I have sinned, I own it with grief and shame,
But not with a lie on my lips I came.
In my blindness I verily thought my heart

Swept and garnished in every part.
He chargeth His angels with folly :
He sees
The heavens unclean. Was I more than these ?

"I urge no plea. At your feet I lay
The trust you gave me, and go my way.
Hate me or pity me, as you will,
The Lord will have mercy on sinners still ;
And I, who am chieftest, say to all,
Watch and pray, lest ye also fall."

No voice made answer : a sob so low
That only his quickened ear could know
Smote his heart with a bitter pain,
As into the forest he rode again,
And the veil of its oaken leaves shut down
On his latest glimpse of Cocheco town.

Crystal-clear on the man of sin
The streams flashed up, and the sky shone in ;

On his cheek of fever the cool wind
blew,
The leaves dropped on him their tears
of dew,
And angels of God, in the pure, sweet
guise
Of flowers, looked on him with sad
surprise.

Was his ear at fault that brook and
breeze
Sang in their saddest of minor keys?
What was it the mournful wood-thrush
said?
What whispered the pine-trees over-
head?
Did he hear the Voice on his lonely
way
That Adam heard in the cool of
day?

Into the desert alone rode he,
Alone with the Infinite Purity;
And, bowing his soul to its tender re-
buke,
As Peter did to the Master's look,
He measured his path with prayers of
pain
For peace with God and nature again.

And in after years to Cocheco came
The bruit of a once familiar name;
How among the Dutch of New Neth-
erlands,
From wild Danskamer to Haarlem
sands,
A penitent soldier preached the Word,
And smote the heathen with Gideon's
sword!

And the heart of Boston was glad to
hear
How he harried the foe on the long
frontier,
And heaped on the land against him
barred
The coals of his generous watch and
ward.
Frailest and bravest! the Bay State
still
Counts with her worthies John Under-
hill.

IN QUEST.

HAVE I not voyaged, friend beloved,
with thee
On the great waters of the unsounded
sea,
Momently listening with suspended oar
For the low roar of waves upon a
shore
Changeless as heaven, where never
fog-cloud drifts
Over its windless woods, nor mirage
lifts
The steadfast hills; where never birds
of doubt
Sing to mislead, and every dream dies
out,
And the dark riddles which perplex us
here
In the sharp solvent of its light are
clear?
Thou knowest how vain our quest:
how, soon or late,
The baffling tides and circles of de-
bate
Swept back our bark unto its starting-
place,
Where, looking forth upon the blank,
gray space,
And round about us seeing, with sad
eyes,
The same old difficult hills and cloud-
cold skies,
We said: "This outward search avail-
eth not
To find Him. He is farther than we
thought,
Or, haply, nearer. To this very spot
Whereon we wait, this commonplace
of home,
As to the well of Jacob, He may
come
And tell us all things." As I listened
there,
Through the expectant silences of
prayer,
Somewhat I seemed to hear, which
hath to me
Been hope, strength, comfort, and I
give it thee.

"The riddle of the world is understood
Only by him who feels that God is
good,

As only he can feel who makes his love
 The ladder of his faith, and climbs
 above
 On th' rounds of his best instincts ;
 draws no line
 Between mere human goodness and
 divine,
 But, judging God by what in him is
 best,
 With a child's trust leans on a Father's
 breast,
 And hears unmoved the old creeds
 babble still
 Of kingly power and dread caprice of
 will,
 Chary of blessing, prodigal of curse,
 The pitiless doomsman of the universe.
 Can hatred ask for love ? Can Selfish-
 ness
 Invite to self-denial ? Is He less
 Than man in kindly dealing ? Can He
 break
 His own great law of fatherhood, for-
 sake
 And curse His children ? Not for
 earth and heaven
 Can separate tables of the law be given.
 No rule can bind which He himself de-
 nies ;
 The truths of time are not eternal lies."

So heard I ; and the chaos round me
 spread
 To light and order grew ; and,
 "Lord," I said,
 "Our sins are our tormentors, worst of
 all
 Felt in distrustful shame that dares not
 call
 Upon Thee as our Father. We have
 set
 A strange god up, but Thou remain-
 est yet.
 All that I feel of pity Thou hast known
 Before I was ; my best is all Thy
 own.
 From Thy great heart of goodness
 mine but drew
 Wishes and prayers ; but Thou, O
 Lord, wilt do,
 In Thy own time, by ways I cannot
 see,
 All that I feel when I am nearest
 Thee ! "

A SEA DREAM.

We saw the slow tides go and come,
 The curving surf-lines lightly drawn,
 The gray rocks touched with tender
 bloom
 Beneath the fresh-blown rose of
 dawn.

We saw in richer sunsets lost
 The sombre pomp of showery noons :
 And signalled spectral sails that crossed
 The weird, low light of rising moons.

On stormy eves from cliff and head
 We saw the white spray tossed and
 spurned ;
 While over all, in gold and red,
 Its face of fire the lighthouse turned.

The rail-car brought its daily crowds,
 Half curious, half indifferent,
 Like passing sails or floating clouds,
 We saw them as they came and went

But, one calm morning, as we lay
 And watched the mirage-lifted wall
 Of coast, across the dreamy bay,
 And heard afar the curlew call,

And nearer voices, wild or tame,
 Of airy flock and childish throng,
 Up from the water's edge there came
 Faint snatches of familiar song.

Careless we heard the singer's choice
 Of old and common airs ; at last
 The tender pathos of his voice
 In one low chanson held us fast.

A song that mingled joy and pain,
 And memories old and sadly sweet;
 While, timing to its minor strain,
 The waves in lapsing cadence beat

The waves are glad in breeze and sun,
 The rocks are fringed with foam ;
 I walk once more a haunted shore,
 A stranger, yet at home, —
 A land of dreams I roam.

Is this the wind, the soft sea-wind
 That stirred thy locks of brown ?

Are these the rocks whose mosses knew
The trail of thy light gown,
Where boy and girl sat down?

I see the gray fort's broken wall,
The boats that rock below;
And, out at sea, the passing sails
We saw so long ago
Rose-red in morning's glow.

The freshness of the early time
On every breeze is blown;
As glad the sea, as blue the sky,—
The change is ours alone;
The saddest is my own.

A stranger now, a world-worn man,
Is he who bears my name;
But thou, methinks, whose mortal life
Immortal youth became,
Art evermore the same.

Thou art not here, thou art not there,
Thy place I cannot see;
I only know that where thou art
The blessed angels be,
And heaven is glad for thee.

Forgive me if the evil years
Have left on me their sign;
Wash out, O soul so beautiful,
The many stains of mine
In tears of love divine!

I could not look on thee and live,
If thou wert by my side;
The vision of a shining one,
The white and heavenly bride,
Is well to me denied.

But turn to me thy dear girl-face
Without the angel's crown,
The wedded roses of thy lips,
Thy loose hair rippling down
In waves of golden brown.

Look forth once more through space
and time,
And let thy sweet shade fall
In tenderest grace of soul and form
On memory's frescoed wall.
A shadow, and yet all!

Draw near, more near, forever dear!
Where'er I rest or roam,

Or in the city's crowded streets,
Or by the blown sea foam,
The thought of thee is home!

At breakfast hour the singer read
The city news, with comment wise,
Like one who felt the pulse of trade
Beneath his finger fall and rise.

His look, his air, his curt speech, told
The man of action, not of books,
To whom the corners made in gold
And stocks were more than seaside
nooks.

Of life beneath the life confessed
His song had hinted unawares;
Of flowers in traffic's ledgers pressed,
Of human hearts in bulls and bears.

But eyes in vain were turned to watch
That face so hard and shrewd and strong;
And ears in vain grew sharp to catch
The meaning of that morning song.

In vain some sweet-voiced querist
sought
To sound him, leaving as she came;
Her baited album only caught
A common, unromantic name.

No word betrayed the mystery fine,
That trembled on the singer's
tongue;
He came and went, and left no sign
Behind him save the song he sung.

A MYSTERY.

THE river hemmed with leaning trees
Wound through its meadows green;
A low, blue line of mountains showed
The open pines between.

One sharp, tall peak above them all
Clear into sunlight sprang:
I saw the river of my dreams,
The mountains that I sang!

No clew of memory led me on,
But well the ways I knew;

A feeling of familiar things
With every footstep grew.

Not otherwise above its crag
Could lean the blasted pine;
Not otherwise the maple hold
Aloft its red ensign.

So up the long and shorn foot-hills
The mountain road should creep;
So, green and low, the meadow fold
Its red-haired kine asleep.

The river wound as it should wind;
Their place the mountains took;
The white torn fringes of their clouds
Wore no unwonted look;

Yet ne'er before that river's rim
Was pressed by feet of mine,
Never before mine eyes had crossed
That broken mountain line.

A presence, strange at once and known,
Walked with me as my guide;
The skirts of some forgotten life
Trailed noiseless at my side.

Was it a dim-remembered dream?
Or glimpse through æons old?
The secret which the mountains kept
The river never told.

But from the vision ere it passed
A tender hope I drew,
And, pleasant as a dawn of spring,
The thought within me grew,

That love would temper every change,
And soften all surprise,
And, misty with the dreams of earth,
The hills of Heaven arise.

CONDUCTOR BRADLEY.

CONDUCTOR BRADLEY, (always may
his name
Be said with reverence !) as the swift
doom came,
Smitten to death, a crushed and man-
gled frame,

Sank, with the brake he grasped just
where he stood
To do the utmost that a brave man
could,
And die, if needful, as a true man
should.

Men stooped above him; women
dropped their tears
On that poor wreck beyond all hopes
or fears,
Lost in the strength and glory of his
years.

What heard they? Lo! the ghastly
lips of pain,
Dead to all thought save duty's, moved
again:
"Put out the signals for the other
train!"

No nobler utterance since the world
began
From lips of saint or martyr ever ran,
Electric, through the sympathies of
man.

Ah me! how poor and noteless seem
to this
The sick-bed dramas of self-conscious-
ness,
Our sensual fears of pain and hopes of
bliss!

O, grand, supreme endeavor! Not in
vain
That last brave act of failing tongue
and brain!
Freighted with life the downward rush-
ing train,

Following the wrecked one, as wave
follows wave,
Obeyed the warning which the dead
lips gave.
Others he saved, himself he could not
save.

Nay, the lost life was saved. He is
not dead
Who in his record still the earth shall
tread
With God's clear aureole shining round
his head.

We bow as in the dust, with all our pride
 Of virtue dwarfed the noble deed beside.
 God give us grace to live as Bradley died !

CHILD-SONGS.

STILL linger in our noon of time
 And on our Saxon tongue
 The echoes of the home-born hymns
 The Aryan mothers sung.

And childhood had its litanies
 In every age and clime ;
 The earliest cradles of the race
 Were rocked to poet's rhyme.

Nor sky, nor wave, nor tree, nor flower,
 Nor green earth's virgin sod,
 So moved the singer's heart of old
 As these small ones of God.

The mystery of unfolding life
 Was more than dawning morn,
 Than opening flower or crescent moon
 The human soul new-born !

And still to childhood's sweet appeal
 The heart of genius turns,
 And more than all the sages teach
 From lisping voices learns, —

The voices loved of him who sang,
 Where Tweed and Teviot glide,
 That sound to-day on all the winds
 That blow from Rydal-side, —

Heard in the Teuton's household songs,
 And folk-lore of the Finn,
 Where'er to holy Christmas hearths
 The Christ-child enters in !

Before life's sweetest mystery still
 The heart in reverence kneels ;
 The wonder of the primal birth
 The latest mother feels.

We need love's tender lessons taught
 As only weakness can ;
 God hath his small interpreters ;
 The child must teach the man.

We wander wide through evil years,
 Our eyes of faith grow dim ;
 But he is freshest from His hands
 And nearest unto Him !

And haply, pleading long with Him
 For sin-sick hearts and cold,
 The angels of our childhood still
 The Father's face behold.

Of such the kingdom ! — Teach thou
 us,
 O Master most divine,
 To feel the deep significance
 Of these wise words of thine !

The haughty eye shall seek in vain
 What innocence beholds ;
 No cunning finds the key of heaven,
 No strength its gate unfolds.

Alone to guilelessness and love
 That gate shall open fall ;
 The mind of pride is nothingness,
 The childlike heart is all !

THE GOLDEN WEDDING OF LONGWOOD.

WITH fifty years between you and your
 well-kept wedding vow,
 The Golden Age, old friends of mine,
 is not a fable now.

And, sweet as has life's vintage been
 through all your pleasant past,
 Still, as at Cana's marriage-feast, the
 best wine is the last !

Again before me, with your names, fair
 Chester's landscape comes,
 Its meadows, woods, and ample barns,
 and quaint, stone-builted homes.

The smooth-shorn vales, the wheaten
 slopes, the boscage green and soft,
 Of which their poet sings so well from
 towered Cedarcroft.

And lo ! from all the country-side come
 neighbors, kith and kin ;
 From city, hamlet, farm-house old, the
 wedding guests come in.

And they who, without scrip or purse,
mob-hunted, travel-worn,
In Freedom's age of martyrs came, as
victors now return.

Older and slower, yet the same, files in
the long array,
And hearts are light and eyes are glad,
though heads are badger-gray.

The fire-tried men of Thirty-eight who
saw with me the fall,
Midst roaring flames and shouting mob,
of Pennsylvania Hall;

And they of Lancaster who turned the
cheeks of tyrants pale,
Singing of freedom through the grates
of Moyamensing jail!

And haply with them, all unseen, old
comrades, gone before,
Pass, silently as shadows pass, within
your open door,—

The eagle face of Lindley Coates, brave
Garrett's daring zeal,
The Christian grace of Pennock, the
steadfast heart of Neal.

Ah me! beyond all power to name, the
worthies tried and true,
Grave men, fair women, youth and
maid, pass by in hushed review.

Of varying faiths, a common cause
fused all their hearts in one.
God give them now, whate'er their
names, the peace of duty done!

How gladly would I tread again the
old-remembered places,
Sit down beside your hearth once more
and look in the dear old faces!

And thank you for the lessons your fifty
years are teaching,
For honest lives that louder speak than
half our noisy preaching;

For your steady faith and courage in
that dark and evil time,
When the Golden Rule was treason,
and to feed the hungry, crime;

For the poor slave's house of refuge
when the hounds were on his
track,
And saint and sinner, church and state,
joined hands to send him back.

Blessings upon you! — What you did
for each sad, suffering one,
So homeless, faint, and naked, unto
our Lord was done!

Fair fall on Kennett's pleasant vales
and Longwood's bowery ways
The mellow sunset of your lives, friends
of my early days.

May many more of quiet years be
added to your sum,
And, late at last, in tenderest love, the
beckoning angel come.

Dear hearts are here, dear hearts are
there, alike below, above:
Our friends are now in either world,
and love is sure of love.

KINSMAN.

DIED AT THE ISLAND OF PANAY (PHILIPPINE GROUP), AGED 19 YEARS.

WHERE ceaseless Spring her garland
twines,
As sweetly shall the loved one rest,
As if beneath the whispering pines
And maple shadows of the West.

Ye mourn, O hearts of home! for him,
But, haply, mourn ye not alone;
For him shall far-off eyes be dim,
And pity speak in tongues unknown.

There needs no graven line to give
The story of his blameless youth;
All hearts shall throb intuitive,
And nature guess the simple truth.

The very meaning of his name
Shall many a tender tribute win;
The stranger own his sacred claim,
And all the world shall be his kin.

And there, as here, on main and isle,
The dews of holy peace shall fall,
The same sweet heavens above him
smile,
And God's dear love be over all !

VESTA.

O CHRIST of God ! whose life and death
Our own have reconciled,
Most quietly, most tenderly
Take home thy star-named child !

Thy grace is in her patient eyes,
Thy words are on her tongue ;
The very silence round her seems
As if the angels sung.

Her smile is as a listening child's
Who hears its mother call ;
The lilies of Thy perfect peace
About her pillow fall.

She leans from out our clinging arms,
To rest herself in Thine ;
Alone to Thee, dear Lord, can we
Our well-beloved resign !

O, less for her than for ourselves
We bow our heads and pray ;
Her setting star, like Bethlehem's,
To Thee shall point the way !

THE HEALER.

TO A YOUNG PHYSICIAN, WITH DORE'S PICTURE OF CHRIST HEALING THE SICK.

So stood of old the holy Christ
Amidst the suffering throng ;
With whom his lightest touch sufficed
To make the weakest strong.

That healing gift he lends to them
Who use it in his name ;
The power that filled his garment's hem
Is evermore the same.

For lo ! in human hearts unseen
The Healer dwelleth still,
And they who make his temples clean
The best subserve his will.

The holiest task by Heaven decreed,
An errand all divine,
The burden of our common need
To render less is thine.

The paths of pain are thine. Go forth
With patience, trust, and hope ;
The sufferings of a sin-sick earth
Shall give thee ample scope.

Beside the unveiled mysteries
Of life and death go stand,
With guarded lips and reverent eyes
And pure of heart and hand.

So shalt thou be with power endued
From Him who went about
The Syrian hillsides doing good,
And casting demons out.

That Good Physician liveth yet
Thy friend and guide to be ;
The Healer by Gennesaret
Shall walk the rounds with thee.

A CHRISTMAS CARMEN.

L

SOUND over all waters, reach out from
all lands,
The chorus of voices, the clasping of
hands ;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars
of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus
was born !
With glad jubilations
Bring hope to the nations !
The dark night is ending and dawn has
begun :
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the
sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts
beat as one !

II.

Sing the bridal of nations ! with chorals
of love
Sing out the war-vulture and sing in
the dove,
Till the hearts of the peoples keep time
in accord,
And the voice of the world is the voice
of the Lord !
Clasp hands of the nations
In strong gratulations :
The dark night is ending and dawn has
begun ;
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the
sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts
beat as one !

III.

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of
peace ;
East, west, north, and south let the
long quarrel cease :
Sing the song of great joy that the
angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good-will
to man !
Hark ! joining in chorus
The heavens bend o'er us !
The dark night is ending and dawn has
begun ;
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the
sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts
beat as one !

HYMN

FOR THE OPENING OF PLYMOUTH
CHURCH, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.

ALL things are Thine : no gift have we,
Lord of all gifts ! to offer Thee :
And hence with grateful hearts to-
day,
Thy own before Thy feet we lay.

Thy will was in the builders' thought;
Thy hand unseen amidst us wrought ;
Through mortal motive, scheme and
plan,
Thy wise eternal purpose ran.

No lack Thy perfect fulness knew ;
For human needs and longings grew
This house of prayer, this home of
rest,
In the fair garden of the West.

In weakness and in want we call
On Thee for whom the heavens are
small ;
Thy glory is Thy children's good,
Thy joy Thy tender Fatherhood.

O Father ! deign these walls to bless.
Fill with Thy love their emptiness :
And let their door a gateway be
To lead us from ourselves to Thee !

POEMS BY ELIZABETH H. WHITTIER.

THE DREAM OF ARGYLE.

EARTHLY arms no more uphold him
On his prison's stony floor ;
Waiting death in his last slumber,
Lies the doomed MacCallum More.

And he dreams a dream of boyhood ;
Rise again his heathery hills,
Sound again the hound's long baying,
Cry of moor-fowl, laugh of rills.

Now he stands amidst his clansmen
In the low, long banquet-hall,
Over grim, ancestral armor
Sees the ruddy firelight fall.

Once again, with pulses beating,
Hears the wandering minstrel tell
How Montrose on Inverary
Thief-like from his mountains fell.

Down the glen, beyond the castle,
Where the linn's swift waters shine,

Round the youthful heir of Argyle
Shy feet glide and white arms twine.

Fairest of the rustic dancers,
Blue-eyed Effie smiles once more,
Bends to him her snooded tresses,
Treads with him the grassy floor.

Now he hears the pipes lamenting,
Harpers for his mother mourn,
Slow, with sable plume and pennon,
To her cairn of burial borne.

Then anon his dreams are darker,
Sounds of battle fill his ears,
And the pibroch's mournful wailing
For his father's fall he hears.

Wild Lochaber's mountain echoes
Wail in concert for the dead,
And Loch Awe's deep waters murmur
For the Campbell's glory fled !

Fierce and strong the godless tyrants
Trample the apostate land,
While her poor and faithful remnant
Wait for the Avenger's hand.

Once again at Inverary,
Years of weary exile o'er,
Armed to lead his scattered clansmen,
Stands the bold MacCallum More.

Once again to battle calling
Sound the war-pipes through the
glen ;
And the court-yard of Dunstaffnage
Rings with tread of arm'd men.

All is lost ! The godless triumph,
And the faithful ones and true
From the scaffold and the prison
Covenant with God anew.

On the darkness of his dreaming
Great and sudden glory shone ;
Over bonds and death victorious
Stands he by the Father's throne !

From the radiant ranks of martyrs
Notes of joy and praise he hears,
Songs of his poor land's deliverance
Sounding from the future years.

Lo, he wakes ! but airs celestial
Bathe him in immortal rest,
And he sees with unsealed vision
Scotland's cause with victory blest.

Shining hosts attend and guard him
As he leaves his prison door ;
And to death as to a triumph
Walks the great MacCallum More !

LINES

WRITTEN ON THE DEPARTURE OF JOSEPH STURGE, AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE ABOLITIONISTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

FAIR islands of the sunny sea ! midst
all rejoicing things,
No more the wailing of the slave a
wild discordance brings ;
On the lifted brows of freemen the
tropic breezes blow,
The mildew of the bondman's toil the
land no more shall know.

How swells from those green islands,
where bird and leaf and flower
Are praising in their own sweet way
the dawn of freedom's hour,
The glorious resurrection song from
hearts rejoicing poured,
Thanksgiving for the priceless gift, —
man's regal crown restored !

How beautiful through all the green
and tranquil summer land,
Uplifted, as by miracle, the solemn
churches stand !
The grass is trodden from the paths
where waiting freemen throng,
Athirst and fainting for the cup of life
denied so long.

O, blessed were the feet of him whose
generous errand here
Was to unloose the captive's chain
and dry the mourner's tear ;
To lift again the fallen ones a brother's
robber hand
Had left in pain and wretchedness by
the waysides of the land.

The islands of the sea rejoice ; the harvest anthems rise ;
The sower of the seed must own 't is marvellous in his eyes ;
The old waste places are rebuilt, — the broken walls restored, —
And the wilderness is blooming like the garden of the Lord !

Thanksgiving for the holy fruit I should not the laborer rest,
His earnest faith and works of love have been so richly blest ?
The pride of all fair England shall her ocean islands be,
And their peasantry with joyful hearts keep ceaseless jubilee.

Rest, never ! while his countrymen have trampled hearts to bleed,
The stifled murmur of their wrongs his listening ear shall heed,
Where England's far dependencies her *might*, not *mercy*, know,
To all the crushed and suffering there his pitying love shall flow.

The friend of freedom everywhere, how mourns he for our land,
The brand of whose hypocrisy burns on her guilty hand !
Her thrift a theft, the robber's greed and cunning in her eye,
Her glory shame, her flaunting flag on all the winds a lie !

For us with steady strength of heart and zeal forever true,
The champion of the island slave the conflict doth renew,
His labor here hath been to point the Pharisaic eye
Away from empty creed and form to where the wounded lie.

How beautiful to us should seem the coming feet of such !
Their garments of self-sacrifice have healing in their touch ;
Their gospel mission none may doubt, for they heed the Master's call,
Who here walked with the multitude, and sat at meat with all !

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

He rests with the immortals ; his journey has been long :
For him no wail of sorrow, but a pean full and strong !
So well and bravely has he done the work he found to do,
To justice, freedom, duty, God, and man forever true.

Strong to the end, a man of men, from out the strife he passed :
The grandest hour of all his life was that of earth the last.
Now midst his snowy hills of home to the grave they bear him down,
The glory of his fourscore years resting on him like a crown.

The mourning of the many bells, the drooping flags, all seem Like some dim, unreal pageant passing onward in a dream :
And following with the living to his last and narrow bed, Methinks I see a shadowy band, a train of noble dead.

'T is a strange and weird procession that is slowly moving on,
The phantom patriots gathered to the funeral of their son !
In shadowy guise they move along, brave Otis with hushed tread,
And Warren walking reverently by the father of the dead.

Gliding foremost in the misty band a gentle form is there,
In the white robes of the angels are their glory round her hair.
She hovers near and bends above the world-wide-honored child,
And the joy that heaven alone can know beams on her features mild.

And so they bear him to his grave in the fulness of his years,
True sage and prophet, leaving us in time of many fears.
Nevermore amid the darkness of wild and evil day
Shall his voice be heard to cheer us, shall his finger point the way.

DR. KANE IN CUBA.

A NOBLE life is in thy care,
A sacred trust to thee is given ;
Bright Island ! let thy healing air
Be to him as the breath of Heaven.

The marvel of his daring life —
The self-forgetting leader bold —
Stirs, like the trumpet's call to strife,
A million hearts of meaner mould.

Eyes that shall never meet his own
Look dim with tears across the sea,
Where from the dark and icy zone,
Sweet Isle of Flowers ! he comes to thee.

Fold him in rest, O pitying clime !
Give back his wasted strength again ;
Soothe, with thy endless summer time,
His winter-wearied heart and brain.

Sing soft and low, thou tropic bird,
From out the fragrant, flowery tree,—
The ear that hears thee now has heard
The ice-break of the winter sea.

Through his long watch of awful night,
He saw the Bear in Northern skies ;
Now, to the Southern Cross of light
He lifts in hope his weary eyes.

Prayers from the hearts that watched
in fear,
When the dark North no answer
gave,
Rise, trembling, to the Father's ear,
That still His love may help and
save.

LADY FRANKLIN.

FOLD thy hands, thy work is over ;
Cool thy watching eyes with tears ;
Let thy poor heart, over-wearied,
Rest alike from hopes and fears, —

Hopes, that saw with sleepless vision
One sad picture fading slow ;
Fears, that followed, vague and name-
less,
Lifting back the veils of snow.

For thy brave one, for thy lost one,
Truest heart of woman, weep !
Owning still the love that granted
Unto thy beloved sleep.

Not for him that hour of terror
When, the long ice-battle o'er,
In the sunless day his comrades
Deathward trod the Polar shore.

Spared the cruel cold and famine,
Spared the fainting heart's despair,
What but that could mercy grant him ?
What but that has been thy prayer ?

Dear to thee that last memorial
From the cairn beside the sea :
Evermore the month of roses
Shall be sacred time to thee.

Sad it is the mournful yew-tree
O'er his slumbers may not wave ;
Sad it is the English daisy
May not blossom on his grave.

But his tomb shall storm and winter
Shape and fashion year by year,
Pile his mighty mausoleum,
Block by block, and tier on tier,

Guardian of its gleaming portal
Shall his stainless honor be,
While thy love, a sweet immortal,
Hovers o'er the winter sea.

NIGHT AND DEATH.

THE storm-wind is howling
Through old pines afar ;
The drear night is falling
Without moon or star.

The roused sea is lashing
The bold shore behind,
And the moan of its ebbing
Keeps time with the wind.

On, on through the darkness,
A spectre, I pass
Where, like moaning of broken hearts,
Surges the grass !

I see her lone head-stone,—
 'T is white as a shroud ;
 Like a pall, hangs above it
 The low drooping cloud.

Who speaks through the dark night
 And lull of the wind ?
 'T is the sound of the pine-leaves
 And sea-waves behind.

The dead girl is silent,—
 I stand by her now ;
 And her pulse beats no quicker,
 Nor crimsoned her brow.

The small hand that trembled,
 When last in my own,
 Lies patient and folded,
 And colder than stone.

Like the white blossoms falling
 To-night in the gale,
 So she in her beauty
 Sank mournful and pale.

Yet I loved her ! I utter
 Such words by her grave,
 As I would not have spoken
 Her last breath to save.

Of *her* love the angels
 In heaven might tell,
 While mine would be whispered
 With shudders in hell !

"T was well that the white ones
 Who bore her to bliss
 Shut out from her new life
 The vision of this.

Else, sure as I stand here,
 And speak of my love,
 She would leave for my darkness
 Her glory above.

THE MEETING WATERS.

CLOSE beside the meeting waters,
 Long I stood as in a dream,
 Watching how the little river
 Fell into the broader stream.

Calm and still the mingled current
 Glided to the waiting sea ;
 On its breast serenely pictured
 Floating cloud and skirting tree.

And I thought, " O human spirit !
 Strong and deep and pure and blest,
 Let the stream of my existence
 Blend with thine, and find its rest ! "

I could die as dies the river,
 In that current deep and wide ;
 I would live as live its waters,
 Flashing from a stronger tide !

THE WEDDING VEIL.

DEAR Anna, when I brought her veil,
 Her white veil on her wedding night,
 Threw o'er my thin brown hair its folds,
 And, laughing, turned me to the light.

" See, Bebbie, see ! you wear at last
 The bridal veil forsown for years ! "
 She saw my face, — her laugh was
 hushed,
 Her happy eyes were filled with tears.

With kindly haste and trembling hand
 She drew away the gauzy mist ;
 " Forgive, dear heart ! " her sweet voice
 said :
 Her loving lips my forehead kissed.

We passed from out the searching
 light ;
 The summer night was calm and fair :
 I did not see her pitying eyes,
 I felt her soft hand smooth my hair.

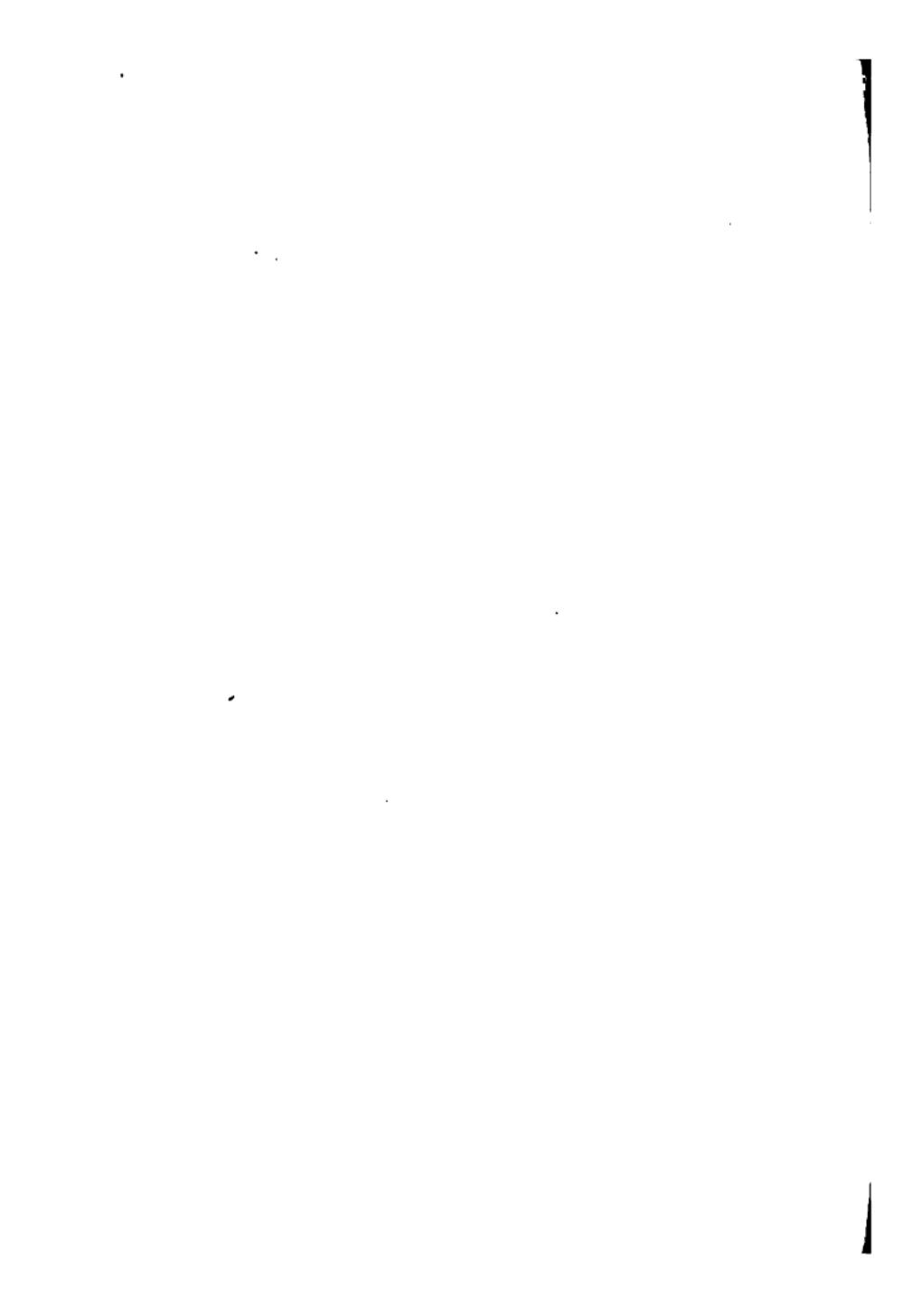
Her tender love unlocked my heart :
 Mid falling tears, at last I said,
 " Forsworn indeed to me that veil
 Because I only love the dead ! "

She stood one moment statue-still,
 And, musing, spake in undertone,
 " The living love may colder grow ;
 The dead is safe with God alone ! "

CHARITY.

THE pilgrim and stranger who through
the day
Holds over the desert his trackless way
Where the terrible sands no shade have
known,
No sound of life save his camel's moan,
Hears, at last, through the mercy of
Allah to all,
From his tent-door at evening the
Bedouin's call:
*"Whoever thou art whose need
is great,
In the name of God, the Com-
passionate
And Merciful One, for thee I
wait!"*

For gifts in His name of food and
rest
The tents of Islam of God are
blest,
Thou who hast faith in the Christ
above,
Shall the Koran teach thee the Law of
Love? —
O Christian! — open thy heart and
door,
Cry east and west to the wandering
poor:
*"Whoever thou art whose need
is great,
In the name of Christ, the Com-
passionate
And Merciful One, for thee I
wait!"*



N O T E S.

grapes. We named it the island of Bacchus." — *Les Voyages de Sieur Champlain*, Liv. 2, c. 8.

NOTE 7, page 4.

John Bonython was the son of Richard Bonython, Gent., one of the most efficient and able magistrates of the Colony. John proved to be "a degenerate plant." In 1635, we find, by the Court Records, that, for some offence, he was fined 40s. In 1640, he was fined for abuse toward R. Gibson, the minister, and Mary his wife. Soon after he was fined for disorderly conduct in the house of his father. In 1645, the "Great and General Court" adjudged "John Bonython outlawed, and incapable of any of his Majesty's laws, and proclaimed him a rebel." (Court Records of the Province, 1645.) In 1651, he bade defiance to the laws of Massachusetts, and was again outlawed. He acted independently of all law and authority; and hence, doubtless, his burlesque title of "The Sagamore of Saco," which has come down to the present generation in the following epitaph:—

"Here lies Bonython; the Sagamore of Saco,
He lived a rogue, and died a knave,
and went to Hobomoko."

By some means or other, he obtained a large estate. In this poem, I have taken some liberties with him, not strictly warranted by historical facts, although the conduct imputed to him is in keeping with his general character. Over the last years of his life lingers a deep obscurity. Even the manner of his death is uncertain. He was supposed to have been killed by the Indians; but this is doubted by the able and indefatigable author of the History of Saco and Biddeford. — Part I. p. 115.

NOTE 8, page 4.

Foxwell's Brook flows from a marsh or bog, called the "Heath," in Saco, containing thirteen hundred acres. On this brook, and surrounded by wild and

romantic scenery, is a beautiful waterfall, of more than sixty feet.

NOTE 9, page 5.

Hiacoomes, the first Christian preacher on Martha's Vineyard; for a biography of whom the reader is referred to Increase Mayhew's account of the Praying Indians, 1726. The following is related of him: "One Lord's day, after meeting, where Hiacoomes had been preaching, there came in a Powwaw very angry, and said, 'I know all the meeting Indians are liars. You say you don't care for the Powwaws'; — then calling two or three of them by name, he railed at them, and told them they were deceived, for the Powwaws could kill all the meeting Indians, if they set about it. But Hiacoomes told him that he would be in the midst of all the Powwaws in the island, and they should do the utmost they could against him; and when they should do their worst by their witchcraft to kill him, he would without fear set himself against them, by remembering Jehovah. He told them also he did put all the Powwaws under his heel. Such was the faith of this good man. Nor were these Powwaws ever able to do these Christian Indians any hurt, though others were frequently hurt and killed by them." — *Mayhew*, pp. 6, 7, c. 1.

NOTE 10, page 7.

"The tooth-ache," says Roger Williams in his observations upon the language and customs of the New England tribes, "is the only paine which will force their stoute hearts to cry." He afterwards remarks that even the Indian women never cry as he has heard "some of their men in this paine."

NOTE 11, page 7.

Wutiamettata, "Let us drink." *Wekan*, "It is sweet." *Vide* Roger Williams's Key to the Indian Language, "in that parte of America called New England." London, 1643, p. 35.

NOTE 12, page 8.

Wetuomanit, — a house god, or demon. “They — the Indians — have given me the names of thirty-seven gods, which I have, all which in their solemnne Worships they invocate!” R. Williams’s *Briefe Observations of the Customs, Manners, Worships, &c., of the Natives, in Peace and Warre, in Life and Death*: on all which is added *Spiritual Observations, General and Particular, of Chiefe and Special use — upon all occasions — to all the English inhabiting these parts; yet Pleasant and Profitable to the view of all Mene.* — p. 110, c. 21.

NOTE 13, page 10.

Mt. Desert Island, the Bald Mountain upon which overlooks Frenchman’s and Penobscot Bay. It was upon this island that the Jesuits made their earliest settlement.

NOTE 14, page 11.

Father Hennepin, a missionary among the Iroquois, mentions that the Indians believed him to be a conjurer, and that they were particularly afraid of a bright silver chalice which he had in his possession. “The Indians,” says Père Jerome Lallamant, “fear us is the greatest sorcerers on earth.”

NOTE 15, page 11.

Bomazeen is spoken of by Penhal-low, as “the famous warrior and chief-tain of Norridgewock.” He was killed in the attack of the English upon Norridgewock, in 1724.

NOTE 16, page 11.

Père Ralle, or Rasles, was one of the most zealous and indefatigable of that band of Jesuit missionaries who, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, penetrated the forests of America, with the avowed object of converting the heathen. The first religious mission of the Jesuits, to the savages in North America, was in 1611. The zeal

of the fathers for the conversion of the Indians to the Catholic faith knew no bounds. For this, they plunged into the depths of the wilderness; habituated themselves to all the hardships and privations of the natives; suffered cold, hunger, and some of them death itself, by the extremest tortures. Père Brebeuf, after laboring in the cause of his mission for twenty years, together with his companion, Père Lallamant, was burned alive. To these might be added the names of those Jesuits who were put to death by the Iroquois. — Daniel, Garnier, Buteaux, La Riborde, Goupin, Constantin, and Liegeouis. “For bed,” says Father Lallamant, in his *Relation de ce qui s'est dans le pays des Hurons*, 1640, c. 3, “we have nothing but a miserable piece of bark of a tree; for nourishment, a handful or two of corn, either roasted or soaked in water, which seldom satisfies our hunger; and after all, not venturing to perform even the ceremonies of our religion, without being considered as sorcerers.” Their success among the natives, however, by no means equalled their exertions. Père Lallamant says: “With respect to adult persons, in good health, there is little apparent success; on the contrary, there have been nothing but storms and whirlwinds from that quarter.”

Sebastian Ralle established himself, some time about the year 1670, at Norridgewock, where he continued more than forty years. He was accused, and perhaps not without justice, of exciting his praying Indians against the English, whom he looked upon as the enemies not only of his king, but also of the Catholic religion. He was killed by the English, in 1724, at the foot of the cross which his own hands had planted. This Indian church was broken up, and its members either killed outright or dispersed.

In a letter written by Ralle to his nephew he gives the following account of his church, and his own labors: “All my converts repair to the church regularly twice every day: first, very early in the morning, to attend mass,

NOTES.

and again in the evening, to assist in the prayers at sunset. As it is necessary to fix the imagination of savages, whose attention is easily distracted, I have composed prayers, calculated to inspire them with just sentiments of the august sacrifice of our altars: they chant, or at least recite them aloud, during mass. Besides preaching to them on Sundays and saints' days, I seldom let a working-day pass, without making a concise exhortation, for the purpose of inspiring them with horror at those vices to which they are most addicted, or to confirm them in the practice of some particular virtue." *Vide Lettres Edifiantes et Cur., Vol. VI. p. 127.*

NOTE 17, page 15.

The character of Ralle has probably never been correctly delineated. By his brethren of the Romish Church, he has been nearly apotheosized. On the other hand, our Puritan historians have represented him as a demon in human form. He was undoubtedly sincere in his devotion to the interests of his church, and not over-scrupulous as to the means of advancing those interests. "The French," says the author of the History of Saco and Biddeford, "after the peace of 1713, secretly promised to supply the Indians with arms and ammunition, if they would renew hostilities. Their principal agent was the celebrated Ralle, the French Jesuit." — p. 215.

NOTE 18, page 16.

Hertel de Rouville was an active and unsparing enemy of the English. He was the leader of the combined French and Indian forces which destroyed Deerfield and massacred its inhabitants, in 1703. He was afterwards killed in the attack upon Haverhill. Tradition says that, on examining his dead body, his head and face were found to be perfectly smooth, without the slightest appearance of hair or beard.

NOTE 19, page 16.

Cowesass! — tawhick wessaseen!
Are you afraid? — why fear you?

NOTE 20, page 23.

Winnepurkit, otherwise called George, Sachem of Saugus, married a daughter of Passaconaway, the great Pennacook chieftain, in 1662. The wedding took place at Pennacook (now Concord, N. H.), and the ceremonies closed with a great feast. According to the usages of the chiefs, Passaconaway ordered a select number of his men to accompany the newly-married couple to the dwelling of the husband, where in turn there was another great feast. Some time after, the wife of Winnepurkit expressing a desire to visit her father's house, was permitted to go, accompanied by a brave escort of her husband's chief men. But when she wished to return, her father sent a messenger to Saugus, informing her husband, and asking him to come and take her away. He returned for answer that he had escorted his wife to her father's house in a style that became a chief, and that now if she wished to return, her father must send her back in the same way. This Passaconaway refused to do, and it is said that here terminated the connection of his daughter with the Saugus chief. — *Vide Morton's New Canaan.*

NOTE 21, page 26.

This was the name which the Indians of New England gave to two or three of their principal chiefs, to whom all their inferior sagamores acknowledged allegiance. Passaconaway seems to have been one of these chiefs. His residence was at Pennacook. (Mass. Hist. Coll., Vol. III. pp. 21, 22.) "He was regarded," says Hubbard, "as a great sorcerer, and his fame was widely spread. It was said of him that he could cause a green leaf to grow in winter, trees to dance, water to burn, &c. He was, undoubtedly, one of those shrewd and powerful men whose

achievements are always regarded by a barbarous people as the result of supernatural aid. The Indians gave to such the names of Powahs or Panisees."

"The Panisees are men of great courage and wisdom, and to these the Devil appeareth more familiarly than to others." — *Winslow's Relation.*

NOTE 22, page 28.

"The Indians," says Roger Williams, "have a god whom they call Wetuomanit, who presides over the household."

NOTE 23, page 30.

There are rocks in the river at the Falls of Amoskeag, in the cavities of which, tradition says, the Indians formerly stored and concealed their corn.

NOTE 24, page 32.

The Spring God. — See *Roger Williams's Key*, &c.

NOTE 25, page 34.

"Mat wonck kunna-monee." We shall see thee or her no more. — *Vide Roger Williams's Key to the Indian Language.*

NOTE 26, page 34.

"The Great South West God." — See *Roger Williams's Observations*, &c.

NOTE 27, page 37.

The celebrated Captain Smith, after resigning the government of the Colony in Virginia, in his capacity of "Admiral of New England," made a careful survey of the coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod, in the summer of 1614.

NOTE 28, page 37.

Lake Winnipiseogee, — *The Smile of the Great Spirit*, — the source of one of the branches of the Merrimack.

NOTE 29, page 37.

Captain Smith gave to the promontory, now called Cape Ann, the name of Tragabizanda, in memory of his young and beautiful mistress of that name, who, while he was a captive at Constantinople, like Desdemona, "loved him for the dangers he had passed."

NOTE 30, page 38.

Some three or four years since, a fragment of a statue, rudely chiselled from dark gray stone, was found in the town of Bradford, on the Merrimack. Its origin must be left entirely to conjecture. The fact that the ancient Northmen visited New England, some centuries before the discoveries of Columbus, is now very generally admitted.

NOTE 31, page 48.

De Soto, in the sixteenth century, penetrated into the wilds of the new world in search of gold and the fountain of perpetual youth.

NOTE 32, page 57.

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE, the black chieftain of Hayti, was a slave on the plantation "de Libertas," belonging to M. BAVOU. When the rising of the negroes took place, in 1791, Toussaint refused to join them until he had aided M. BAVOU and his family to escape to Baltimore. The white man had discovered in Toussaint many noble qualities, and had instructed him in some of the first branches of education; and the preservation of his life was owing to the negro's gratitude for this kindness.

In 1797, Toussaint L'Ouverture was appointed, by the French government, General-in-Chief of the armies of St. Domingo, and, as such, signed the Convention with General Maitland for the evacuation of the island by the British. From this period, until 1801, the island, under the government of Toussaint, was happy, tranquil, and prosperous. The miserable attempt of Napoleon to re-establish slavery in St. Domingo, although it failed of its in-

tended object, proved fatal to the negro chieftain. Treacherously seized by Leclerc, he was hurried on board a vessel by night, and conveyed to France, where he was confined in a cold subterranean dungeon, at Besançon, where, in April, 1803, he died. The treatment of Toussaint finds a parallel only in the murder of the Duke D'Enghein. It was the remark of Godwin, in his Lectures, that the West India Islands, since their first discovery by Columbus, could not boast of a single name which deserves comparison with that of Toussaint L'Ouverture.

NOTE 33, page 59.

The reader may, perhaps, call to mind the beautiful sonnet of William Wordsworth, addressed to Toussaint L'Ouverture, during his confinement in France.

"Toussaint! — thou most unhappy man of men!
 Whether the whistling rustic tends
 his plough
 Within thy hearing, or thou liest now
 Buried in some deep dungeon's earless
 den;
 O miserable chieftain! — where and
 when
 Wilt thou find patience? — Yet, die
 not, do thou
 Wear rather in thy bonds a cheerful
 brow;
 Though fallen thyself, never to rise
 again,
 Live and take comfort. Thou hast left
 behind
 Powers that will work for thee; air,
 - earth, and skies, —
 There's not a breathing of the com-
 mon wind
 That will forget thee: thou hast great
 allies.
 Thy friends are exultations, agonies,
 And love, and man's unconquerable
 mind."

NOTE 34, page 59.

The French ship *Le Rodeur*, with a crew of twenty-two men, and with one hundred and sixty negro slaves,

sailed from Bonny, in Africa, April 1819. On approaching the line, a terrible malady broke out, — an obstinate disease of the eyes, — contagious, and altogether beyond the resources of medicine. It was aggravated by the scarcity of water among the slaves (only half a wineglass per day being allowed to an individual), and by the extreme impurity of the air in which they breathed. By the advice of the physician, they were brought upon deck occasionally; but some of the poor wretches, locking themselves in each other's arms, leaped overboard, in the hope, which so universally prevails among them, of being swiftly transported to their own homes in Africa. To check this, the captain ordered several who were stopped in the attempt to be shot, or hanged, before their companions. The disease extended to the crew; and one after another were smitten with it, until only *one* remained unaffected. Yet even this dreadful condition did not preclude calculation: to save the expense of supporting slaves rendered unsalable, and to obtain grounds for a claim against the underwriters, *thirty-six of the negroes, having become blind, were thrown into the sea and drowned!*

In the midst of their dreadful fear lest the solitary individual, whose sight remained unaffected, should also be seized with the malady, a sail was discovered. It was the Spanish slaver, Leon. The same disease had been there; and, horrible to tell, all the crew had become blind! Unable to assist each other, the vessels parted. The Spanish ship has never since been heard of. The Rodeur reached Guadalupe on the 21st of June; the only man who had escaped the disease, and had thus been enabled to steer the slaver into port, caught it in three days after its arrival.—*Speech of M. Benjamin Constant, in the French Chamber of Deputies, June 17, 1820.*

NOTE 35, page 79.

The Northern author of the Con-

gressional rule against receiving petitions of the people on the subject of Slavery.

NOTE 36, page 89.

Dr. Thacher, surgeon in Scammel's regiment, in his description of the siege of Yorktown, says: "The labor on the Virginia plantations is performed altogether by a species of the human race cruelly wrested from their native country, and doomed to perpetual bondage, while their masters are manfully contending for freedom and the natural rights of man. Such is the inconsistency of human nature." Eighteen hundred slaves were found at Yorktown, after its surrender, and restored to their masters. Well was it said by Dr. Barnes, in his late work on Slavery: "No slave was any nearer his freedom after the surrender of Yorktown than when Patrick Henry first taught the notes of liberty to echo among the hills and vales of Virginia."

NOTE 37, page 96.

The rights and liberties affirmed by MAGNA CHARTA were deemed of such importance, in the thirteenth century, that the Bishops, twice a year, with tapers burning, and in their pontifical robes, pronounced, in the presence of the king and the representatives of the estates of England, the greater excommunication against the infringer of that instrument. The imposing ceremony took place in the great Hall of Westminster. A copy of the curse, as pronounced in 1253, declares that, "by the authority of Almighty God, and the blessed Apostles and Martyrs, and all the saints in heaven, all those who violate the English liberties, and secretly or openly, by deed, word, or counsel, do make statutes, or observe them being made, against said liberties, are accursed and sequestered from the company of heaven and the sacraments of the Holy Church."

WILLIAM PENN, in his admirable political pamphlet, "England's Present Interest considered," alluding to

the curse of the Charter-breakers, says: "I am no Roman Catholic, and little value their other curses; yet I declare I would not for the world incur this curse, as every man deservedly doth, who offers violence to the fundamental freedom thereby repeated and confirmed."

NOTE 38, page 116.

"The manner in which the Waldenses and heretics disseminated their principles among the Catholic gentry, was by carrying with them a box of trinkets, or articles of dress. Having entered the houses of the gentry and disposed of some of their goods, they cautiously intimated that they had commodities far more valuable than these, — inestimable jewels, which they would show if they could be protected from the clergy. They would then give their purchasers a Bible or Testament; and thereby many were deluded into heresy." — *R. Saccho.*

NOTE 39, page 133.

Chalkley Hall, near Frankford, Pa., the residence of THOMAS CHALKLEY, an eminent minister of the Friends' denomination. He was one of the early settlers of the Colony, and his Journal, which was published in 1749, presents a quaint but beautiful picture of a life of unostentatious and simple goodness. He was the master of a merchant vessel, and, in his visits to the West Indies and Great Britain, omitted no opportunity to labor for the highest interests of his fellow-men. During a temporary residence in Philadelphia, in the summer of 1838, the quiet and beautiful scenery around the ancient village of Frankford frequently attracted me from the heat and bustle of the city.

NOTE 40, page 137.

August. Siliq. cap. xxxi. "Interrogavi Terram," &c.

NOTE 41, page 141.

For the idea of this line, I am in-

debted to Emerson, in his inimitable sonnet to the Rhodora, —

" If eyes were made for seeing,
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being."

NOTE 42, page 151.

Among the earliest converts to the doctrines of Friends in Scotland was Barclay of Ury, an old and distinguished soldier, who had fought under Gustavus Adolphus, in Germany. As a Quaker, he became the object of persecution and abuse at the hands of the magistrates and the populace. None bore the indignities of the mob with greater patience and nobleness of soul than this once proud gentleman and soldier. One of his friends, on an occasion of uncommon rudeness, lamented that he should be treated so harshly 'n his old age who had been so honored before. "I find more satisfaction," said Barclay, "as well as honor, in being thus insulted for my religious principles, than when, a few years ago, it was usual for the magistrates, as I passed the city of Aberdeen, to meet me on the road and conduct me to public entertainment in their hall, and then escort me out again, to gain my favor."

NOTE 43, page 162.

Lucy Hooper died at Brooklyn, L. I., on the 1st of 8th mo., 1841, aged 24 years.

NOTE 44, page 164.

The last time I saw Dr. Channing was in the summer of 1841, when, in company with my English friend, Joseph Sturge, so well known for his philanthropic labors and liberal political opinions, I visited him in his summer residence in Rhode Island. In recalling the impressions of that visit, it can scarcely be necessary to say, that I have no reference to the peculiar religious opinions of a man whose life, beautifully and truly manifested above the atmosphere of sect, is now the world's common legacy.

NOTE 45, page 166.

"O vine of Sibmah! I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer!"—*Jeremiah xlvi. 32.*

NOTE 46, page 170.

Sophia Sturge, sister of Joseph Sturge, of Birmingham, the President of the British Complete Suffrage Association, died in the 6th month, 1845. She was the colleague, counsellor, and ever-ready helpmate of her brother in all his vast designs of beneficence. The Birmingham Pilot says of her: "Never, perhaps, were the active and passive virtues of the human character more harmoniously and beautifully blended than in this excellent woman."

NOTE 47, page 171.

Winnipiseogee: "Smile of the Great Spirit."

NOTE 48, page 174.

This legend is the subject of a celebrated picture by Tintoretto, of which Mr. Rogers possesses the original sketch. The slave lies on the ground, amid a crowd of spectators, who look on, animated by all the various emotions of sympathy, rage, terror; a woman, in front, with a child in her arms, has always been admired for the life-like vivacity of her attitude and expression. The executioner holds up the broken implements; St. Mark, with a headlong movement, seems to rush down from heaven in haste to save his worshipper. The dramatic grouping in this picture is wonderful; the coloring, in its gorgeous depth and harmony, is, in Mr. Rogers's sketch, finer than in the picture. — *Mrs. Jamison's Poetry of Sacred and Legendary Art*, Vol. I. p. 121.

NOTE 49, page 175.

Pennant, in his "Voyage to the Hebrides," describes the holy well of Loch Maree, the waters of which were supposed to effect a miraculous cure of melancholy, trouble, and insanity.

NOTE 50, page 177.

The writer of these lines is no enemy or Catholics. He has, on more than one occasion, exposed himself to the censures of his Protestant brethren, by his strenuous endeavors to procure indemnification for the owners of the convent destroyed near Boston. He defended the cause of the Irish patriots long before it had become popular in this country; and he was one of the first to urge the most liberal aid to the suffering and starving population of the Catholic island. The severity of his language finds its ample apology in the reluctant confession of one of the most eminent Romish priests, the eloquent and devoted Father Ventura.

NOTE 51, page 178.

Ebenezer Elliott, the intelligence of whose death has recently reached us, was, to the artisans of England, what Burns was to the peasantry of Scotland. His "Corn-law Rhymes" contributed not a little to that overwhelming tide of popular opinion and feeling which resulted in the repeal of the tax on bread. Well has the eloquent author of "The Reforms and Reformers of Great Britain" said of him, "Not corn-law repealers alone, but all Britons who moisten their scanty bread with the sweat of the brow, are largely indebted to his inspiring lay, for the mighty bound which the laboring mind of England has taken in our day."

NOTE 52, page 179.

The reader of the Biography of the late William Allen, the philanthropic associate of Clarkson and Romilly, cannot fail to admire his simple and beautiful record of a tour through Europe, in the years 1818 and 1819, in the company of his American friend, Stephen Grellett.

NOTE 53, page 190.

"Thou 'mind'st me of a story told
In rare Bernardin's leaves of gold."

The incident here referred to is related in a note to Bernardin Henri Saint Pierre's *Etudes de la Nature*.

"We arrived at the habitation of the Hermits a little before they sat down to their table, and while they were still at church. J. J. Rousseau proposed to me to offer up our devotions. The hermits were reciting the Litanies of Providence, which are remarkably beautiful. After we had addressed our prayers to God, and the hermits were proceeding to the refectory, Rousseau said to me, with his heart overflowing, 'At this moment I experience what is said in the gospel: *Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* There is here a feeling of peace and happiness which penetrates the soul.' I said, 'If Fenelon had lived, you would have been a Catholic.' He exclaimed, with tears in his eyes, 'O, if Fenelon were alive, I would struggle to get into his service, even as a lackey!'"

In my sketch of Saint Pierre, it will be seen that I have somewhat antedated the period of his old age. At that time he was not probably more than fifty. In describing him, I have by no means exaggerated his own history of his mental condition at the period of the story. In the fragmentary Sequel to his Studies of Nature, he thus speaks of himself: "The ingratitude of those of whom I had deserved kindness, unexpected family misfortunes, the total loss of my small patrimony through enterprises solely undertaken for the benefit of my country, the debts under which I lay oppressed, the blasting of all my hopes,—these combined calamities made dreadful inroads upon my health and reason: . . . I found it impossible to continue in a room where there was company, especially if the doors were shut. I could not even cross an alley in a public garden, if several persons had got together in it. When alone, my malady subsided. I felt myself likewise at ease in places where I saw children only. At the sight of any one walking up to 1st

NOTES.

place where I was, I felt my whole frame agitated, and retired. I often said to myself, 'My sole study has been to merit well of mankind; why do I fear them?'

He attributes his improved health of mind and body to the counsels of his friend, J. J. Rousseau. "I renounced," says he, "my books. I threw my eyes upon the works of nature, which spake to all my senses a language which neither time nor nations have it in their power to alter. Thenceforth my histories and my journals were the herbage of the fields and meadows. My thoughts did not go forth painfully after them, as in the case of human systems; but their thoughts, under a thousand engaging forms, quietly sought me. In these I studied, without effort, the laws of that Universal Wisdom which had surrounded me from the cradle, but on which heretofore I had bestowed little attention."

Speaking of Rousseau, he says: "I derived inexpressible satisfaction from his society. What I prized still more than his genius, was his probity. He was one of the few literary characters, tried in the furnace of affliction, to whom you could, with perfect security, confide your most secret thoughts. . . . Even when he deviated, and became the victim of himself or of others, he could forget his own misery in devotion to the welfare of mankind. He was uniformly the advocate of the miserable. There might be inscribed on his tomb these affecting words from that Book of which he carried always about him some select passages, during the last years of his life: *His sins, which are many, are forgiven, for he loved much.*"

NOTE 54, page 191.

"Like that the gray-haired sea-king passed."

Dr. Hooker, who accompanied Sir James Ross in his expedition of 1841, thus describes the appearance of that unknown land of frost and fire which

was seen in latitude 77° south. — a stupendous chain of mountains, the whole mass of which, from its highest point to the ocean, was covered with everlasting snow and ice: —

"The water and the sky were both as blue, or rather more intensely blue, than I have ever seen them in the tropics, and all the coast was one mass of dazzlingly beautiful peaks of snow, which, when the sun approached the horizon, reflected the most brilliant tints of golden yellow and scarlet; and then, to see the dark cloud of smoke, tinged with flame, rising from the volcano in a perfect unbroken column, one side jet-black, the other giving back the colors of the sun, sometimes turning off at a right angle by some current of wind, and stretching many miles to leeward! This was a sight so surpassing everything that can be imagined, and so heightened by the consciousness that we had penetrated, under the guidance of our commander, into regions far beyond what was ever deemed practicable, that it caused a feeling of awe to steal over us at the consideration of our own comparative insignificance and helplessness, and at the same time an indescribable feeling of the greatness of the Creator in the works of his hand."

NOTE 55, page 197.

The election of Charles Sumner to the U. S. Senate "followed hard upon" the rendition of the fugitive Sims by the U. S. officials and the armed police of Boston.

NOTE 56, page 201.

The storming of the city of Derne, in 1805, by General Eaton, at the head of nine Americans, forty Greeks, and a motley array of Turks and Arabs, was one of those feats of hardihood and daring which have in all ages attracted the admiration of the multitude. The higher and holier heroism of Christian self-denial and sacrifice, in the humble walks of private duty, is seldom so well appreciated.

NOTE 57, page 204.

It is proper to say that these lines are the joint impromptu of my sister and myself. They are inserted here as an expression of our admiration of the gifted stranger whom we have since learned to love as a friend.

NOTE 58, page 208.

This ballad was originally published in a prose work of the author's, as the song of a wandering Milesian schoolmaster.

In the seventeenth century, slavery in the New World was by no means confined to the natives of Africa. Political offenders and criminals were transported by the British government to the plantations of Barbadoes and Virginia, where they were sold like cattle in the market. Kidnapping of free and innocent white persons was practised to a considerable extent in the seaports of the United Kingdom.

NOTE 59, page 210.

It can scarcely be necessary to say that there are elements in the character and passages in the history of the great Hungarian statesman and orator, which necessarily command the admiration of those, even, who believe that no political revolution was ever worth the price of human blood.

NOTE 60, page 212.

"Homilies from Oldbug hear."

Dr. W—, author of "The Puritan," under the name of Jonathan Oldbug.

NOTE 61, page 228.

William Forster, of Norwich, England, died in East Tennessee, in the 1st month, 1854, while engaged in presenting to the governors of the States of this Union the address of his religious society on the evils of slavery. He was the relative and coadjutor of the Buxtons, Gurneys, and Frys; and his whole life, extending almost to threescore and ten years, was a pure and beautiful example of Christian benevolence. He had travelled over Eu-

rope, and visited most of its sovereigns, to plead against the slave-trade and slavery; and had twice before made visits to this country, under impressions of religious duty.

NOTE 62, page 229.

No more fitting inscription could be placed on the tombstone of Robert Rantoul than this: "He died at his post in Congress, and his last words were a protest in the name of Democracy against the Fugitive-Slave Law."

NOTE 63, page 242.

*"Sebah, Oasis of Fezzan, 10th March, 1846.—This evening the female slaves were unusually excited in singing, and I had the curiosity to ask my negro servant, Said, what they were singing about. As many of them were natives of his own country, he had no difficulty in translating the Mandara or Bornou language. I had often asked the Moors to translate their songs for me, but got no satisfactory account from them. Said at first said, 'O, they sing of *Rubee*' (God). 'What do you mean?' I replied, impatiently. 'O, don't you know?' he continued, 'they asked God to give them their *Atka!*' (certificate of freedom.) I inquired, 'Is that all?' Said: 'No; they say, "Where are we going? The world is large. O God! Where are we going! O God!"' I inquired, 'What else?' Said: 'They remember their country, Bornou, and say, "Bornou was a pleasant country, full of all good things; but this is a bid country, and we are miserable!"' 'Do they say anything else?' Said: 'No; they repeat these words over and over again, and add, "O God! give us our *Atka*, and let us return again to our dear home!"'*

"I am not surprised I got little satisfaction when I asked the Moors about the songs of their slaves. Who will say that the above words are not a very appropriate song? What could have been more congenially adapted to their then woful condition? It is not to be wondered at that these poor bondwomen cheer up their hearts

their long, lonely, and painful wanderings over the desert, with words and sentiments like these; but I have often observed that their fatigue and sufferings were too great for them to strike up this melancholy dirge, and many days their plaintive strains never broke over the silence of the desert."—*Richardson's Journal*.

NOTE 64, page 243.

One of the latest and most interesting items of Eastern news is the statement that Slavery has been formally and totally abolished in Egypt.

NOTE 65, page 259.

A letter from England, in the *Friends' Review*, says: "Joseph Sturge, with a companion, Thomas Harvey, has been visiting the shores of Finland, to ascertain the amount of mischief and loss to poor and peaceable sufferers, occasioned by the gun-boats of the Allied squadrons in the late war, with a view to obtaining relief for them."

NOTE 66, page 276.

A remarkable custom, brought from the Old Country, formerly prevailed in the rural districts of New England. On the death of a member of the family, the bees were at once informed of the event, and their hives dressed in mourning. This ceremonial was supposed to be necessary to prevent the swarms from leaving their hives and seeking a new home.

NOTE 67, page 288.

"Too late I loved Thee, O Beauty of ancient days, yet ever new! And lo! Thou wert within, and I abroad searching for thee. Thou wert with me, but I was not with Thee."—*August. Solilog.*, Book X.

NOTE 68, page 288.

"And I saw that there was an Ocean of Darkness and Death: but an infinite Ocean of Light and Love flowed over the Ocean of Darkness: And in that I saw the infinite Love of God."—*George Fox's Journal*.

NOTE 69, page 297.

The massacre of unarmed and unoffending men, in Southern Kansas, took place near the Marais du Cygne of the French *voyageurs*.

NOTE 70, page 309.

Read at the Friends' School Anniversary, Providence, R. I., 6th mo., 1860.

NOTE 71, page 322.

See English caricatures of America: Slaveholder and cowhide, with the motto, "Haven't I a right to wallop my nigger?"

NOTE 72, page 324.

It is recorded that the Chians, when subjugated by Mithridates of Cappadocia, were delivered up to their own slaves, to be carried away captive to Colchis. Athenaeus considers this a just punishment for their wickedness in first introducing the slave-trade into Greece. From this ancient villainy of the Chians the proverb arose, "The Chian hath bought himself a master."

NOTE 73, page 329.

This ballad was written on the occasion of a Horticultural Festival. Cobbler Keezar was a noted character among the first settlers in the valley of the Merrimack.

NOTE 74, page 342.

Lieutenant Herndon's Report of the Exploration of the Amazon has a striking description of the peculiar and melancholy notes of a bird heard by night on the shores of the river. The Indians guides called it "The Cry of a Lost Soul"!

NOTE 75, page 443.

Eleonora Johanna Von Merlan, or, as Sewall the Quaker Historian gives it, Von Merlane, a noble young lady of Frankfort, seems to have held among the Mystics of that city very much such a position as Anna Maria Schurmann did among the Labadists of Holland.

William Penn appears to have shared the admiration of her own immediate circle for this accomplished and gifted lady.

NOTE 76, page 445.

Magister Johann Kelpius, a graduate of the University of Helmstadt, came to Pennsylvania in 1694, with a company of German Mystics. They made their home in the woods on the Wissahickon, a little west of the Quaker settlement of Germantown. Kelpius was a believer in the near approach of the Millennium, and was a devout student of the Book of Revelation, and the *Morgen-Rothe* of Jacob Behmen. He called his settlement "The Woman in the Wilderness" (*Das Weib in der Wueste*). He was only twenty-four years of age when he came to America, but his gravity, learning, and devotion placed him at the head of the settlement. He disliked the Quakers, because he thought they were too exclusive in the matter of ministers. He was, like most of the Mystics, opposed to the severe doctrinal views of Calvin and even Luther, declaring "that he could as little agree with the *Damnamus* of the Augsburg Confession as with the *Anathema* of the Council of Trent."

He died in 1704, sitting in his little garden surrounded by his grieving disciples. Previous to his death it is said that he cast his famous "Stone of Wisdom" into the river, where that mystic souvenir of the times of Van Helmont, Paracelsus, and Agrippa has lain ever since, undisturbed.

NOTE 77, page 446.

Peter Sluyter, or Schluter, a native of Wesel, united himself with the sect of Labadists, who believed in the Divine commission of John De Labadie, a Roman Catholic priest converted to Protestantism, enthusiastic, eloquent, and evidently sincere in his special calling and election to separate the true and living members of the Church of Christ from the formalism and hypocrisy of the ruling sects. George Keith and Robert Barclay visited him at Amsterdam and

afterward at the communities of Herford and Wierard; and, according to Gerard Croes, found him so near to them on some points, that they offered to take him into the Society of Friends. This offer, if it was really made, which is certainly doubtful, was, happily for the Friends at least, declined. Invited to Herford in Westphalia by Elizabeth, daughter of the Elector Palatine, De Labadie and his followers preached incessantly, and succeeded in arousing a wild enthusiasm among the people, who neglected their business and gave way to excitements and strange practices. Men and women, it was said, at the Communion drank and danced together, and private marriages, or spiritual unions, were formed. Labadie died in 1674 at Altona, in Denmark, maintaining his testimonies to the last" "Nothing remains for me," he said, "except to go to my God. Death is merely ascending from a lower and narrower chamber to one higher and holier."

In 1679 Peter Sluyter and Jasper Dankers were sent to America by the community at the Castle of Wierard. Their journal, translated from the Dutch and edited by Henry C. Murphy, has been recently published by the Long Island Historical Society. They made some converts, and among them was the eldest son of Hermanns, the proprietor of a rich tract of land at the head of Chesapeake Bay, known as Bohemia Manor. Sluyter obtained a grant of this tract, and established upon it a community numbering at one time a hundred souls. Very contradictory statements are on record regarding his headship of this spiritual family, the discipline of which seems to have been of more than monastic severity. Certain it is that he bought and sold slaves, and manifested more interest in the world's goods than became a believer in the near Millennium. He evinces in his journal an overweening spiritual pride, and speaks contemptuously of other professors, especially the Quakers whom he met in his travels. The latter, on the contrary, seem to have looked favorably upon the Labadists, and uniformly speak of th-

courteously and kindly. His journal shows him to have been destitute of common gratitude and Christian charity. He threw himself upon the generous hospitality of the Friends wherever he went, and repaid their kindness by the coarsest abuse and misrepresentation.

NOTE 78, page 446.

Among the pioneer Friends were many men of learning and broad and liberal views. Penn was conversant with every department of literature and philosophy. Thomas Lloyd was a ripe and rare scholar. The great Loganian Library of Philadelphia bears witness to the varied learning and classical taste of its donor, James Logan. Thomas Story, member of the Council of State, Master of the Rolls and Commissioner of Claims under William Penn, and an able minister of his Society, took a deep interest in scientific questions, and in a letter to his friend Logan, written while on a religious visit to Great Britain, seems to have anticipated the conclusion of modern geologists. "I spent," he says, "some months, especially at Scarborough, during the season attending meetings, at whose high cliffs and the variety of strata therein and their several positions I further learned and was confirmed in some things, — that the earth is of much older date as to the beginning of it than the time assigned in the Holy Scriptures as commonly understood, which is suited to the common capacities of mankind, as to six days of progressive work, by which I understand certain long and competent periods of time, and not natural days." It was sometimes made a matter of reproach by the Anabaptists and other sects, that the Quakers read profane writings and philosophies, and that they quoted heathen moralists in support of their views. Sluyter and Dankers, in their journal of American travels, visiting a Quaker preacher's house at Burlington, on the Delaware, found "a volume of Virgil lying on the window, as if it were a common hand

book: also Helmont's book on Medicine (*Ortus Medicinae, id est Institutio Physica inaudita progressus medecinae novae in morborum ultionam ad vitam longam*), whom, in an introduction they have made to it, they make to pass for one of their own sect, although in his lifetime he did not know anything about Quakers." It would appear from this that the half-mystical, half-scientific writings of the alchemist and philosopher of Vilverde had not escaped the notice of Friends, and that they had included him in their broad eclecticism.

NOTE 79, page 447.

"The Quaker's Meeting," a painting by E. Hemskerck (supposed to be Egbert Hemskerck the younger, son of Egbert Hemskerck the old), in which William Penn and others — among them Charles II., or the Duke of York — are represented along with the rudest and most stolid class of the British rural population at that period. Hemskerck came to London from Holland with King William in 1689. He delighted in wild, grotesque subjects, such as the nocturnal intercourse of witches and the temptation of St. Anthony. Whatever was strange and uncommon attracted his free pencil. Judging from the portrait of Penn, he must have drawn his faces, figures, and costumes from life, although there may be something of caricature in the convulsed attitudes of two or three of the figures.

NOTE 80, page 449.

In one of his letters addressed to his friends in Germany he says: "These wild men, who never in their life heard Christ's teachings about temperance and contentment, herein far surpass the Christians. They live far more contented and unconcerned for the morrow. They do not overreach in trade. They know nothing of our everlasting pomp and stylishness. They neither curse nor swear, are temperate in food and drink, and if any of them get drunk, their mouth-Christians are at fault, who,

for the sake of accursed lucre, sell them strong drink."

Again he wrote in 1698 to his father that he finds the Indians reasonable people, willing to accept good teaching and manners, evincing an inward piety toward God, and more eager, in fact, to understand things divine than many among you who in the pulpit teach Christ in word, but by ungodly life deny him.

"It is evident," says Professor Seideustecker, "Pastorius holds up the Indian as Nature's unspoiled child to the eyes of the 'European Babel,' somewhat after the same manner in which Tacitus used the barbarian *Germani* to shame his degenerate countrymen."

As believers in the universality of the Saving Light, the outlook of early Friends upon the heathen was a very cheerful and hopeful one. God was as

near to them as to Jew or Anglo-Saxon; as accessible at Timbuctoo as at Rome or Geneva. Not the letter of Scripture, but the spirit which dictated it, was of saving efficacy. Robert Barclay is nowhere more powerful than in his argument for the salvation of the heathen, who live according to their light, without knowing even the name of Christ. William Penn thought Socrates as good a Christian as Richard Baxter. Early Fathers of the Church, as Origen and Justin Martyr, held broader views on this point than modern Evangelicals. Even Augustine, from whom Calvin borrowed his theology, admits that he has no controversy with the admirable philosophers, Plato and Plotinus. "Nor do I think," he says in *De Civ. Dei.*, lib. xviii., cap. 47, "that the Jews dare affirm that none belonged unto God but the Israelites."

THE END.

FEB 15 1918

